



Border block: Turkish frontier soldiers at Cizre yesterday stopping some of the thousands of Kurdish refugees seeking a haven from the advancing forces of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq

Million Kurds in flight as border curbs are eased

By MICHAEL TREDDOULOU IN NICOSIA AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MORE than a million Kurdish refugees, many dying of starvation and exposure, crammed the mountainous roads out of Iraq yesterday as Turkey and Iran relented to allow some across.

President Ozal of Turkey said at least 100,000 Kurds had been admitted, but added that his country did not have the resources to cope with the half-million more who were converging on the frontier. He called for international pressure to force President Saddam Hussein to halt the violence against his people.

At the Iranian border town of Nasoud, another million refugees were waiting in the rain. Some children had starved to death there, and forty people had died on the road as they fled Saddam's forces, the Iranian news agency reported. The foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, said: "Our borders are open to all refugees, be they Afghan, Iraqi or Kuwaiti", but he appealed to the UN and the Red Cross for help.

John Major promised last night that Britain would contribute about £20 million to the UN appeal for the refugees on top of £1 million announced earlier to fund an airlift of blankets and tents that will begin today. Mr Major has sent messages to President Bush and to European leaders calling for a "massive international effort" to help the Kurds, and he will suggest joint European aid at the EC summit in Luxembourg on Monday.

Britain and America, while still insisting that there can be no military intervention, have thrown their weight at the UN behind a French attempt to have the security council condemn Iraq's assault on the Kurds. Western diplomats argue that Turkey's complaint that Iraq is shelling its territory turns the Kurds' plight into an international incident. Iran has also written to the UN accusing Iraq of conducting "hit and run" attacks and capturing 33 Iranian border guards.

In an interview with *Channel 4 News* last night, President Ozal said: "If pressure is put on him (Saddam) and necessary measures are taken, then I think this can be solved like Kuwait. I think they should make some action, they should push him, they should make him stop this aggression and these people should go back."

Baghdad has urged the refugees to go home, but with helicopter gunships still strafing the convoys, few took comfort from the state radio's assurances that none would be punished "except those who committed crimes of killing, burning and stealing, or who took up weapons in the face of the government".

While welcoming the help that had been pledged, the Kurds yesterday repeated their call for that pressure to be put on Saddam. "Our people want to go back to their homes and live in dignity. We don't want to live in tents on charity," Mohammed Tofti, of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front, said. He added that the Kurds felt abandoned by the passing of the UN ceasefire resolution on Wednesday night. "Saddam will now have a free hand to massacre the Iraqi people."

In his message to Mr Bush, Mr Major described the resolution as a considerable achievement, adding: "I hope it will curtail Saddam Hussein as we both want." Iraq has not formally responded to the resolution, but government newspapers condemned it as unfair and inhuman.



Velayati: "Our borders are open to all"

Kurdish plight, pages 10, 11
Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 12
Leading article and Letters, page 13

Terror on the road to safety

In the Kurdish refugee camps on the border of Iraq yesterday, soldiers fired over the heads of refugees to keep the bread queues in order. But as Tim Deagle reports, the journey to get to the relative safety of the camps was even more gruelling

IN the back of the dustcart 50 men, women, but mostly children, shouted and cried in terror. It was night, the lorry had no lights, the mountain road twisted and curved violently and we were driving towards the advancing Republican Guard as fast as possible, hoping to reach the crossroads before the tanks, praying that they would choose a different route from ours when they got there.

It wasn't much of a plan, but with every escape route but one cut off by the Iraqi army, it was all anyone in Kurdistan had left.

We picked up anyone who could squeeze in, each delay an agonising wait, and when the back was full they clambered on to the roof. The noise inside was terrible, not because it was loud, but because it came from people hysterical with fear. Children screamed, not understanding anything but the terror pervading the inside of the lorry.

Only one slept: a six-year-old boy sitting on my lap, his head in the crook of my arm. He had been walking for two days before we picked him up, fleeing the army with his parents. It was the first time he had been able to rest. We drove the last half-mile to the crossroads at no more than walking pace and found it free of soldiers, but congested with thousands upon thousands of people, all heading up the valley towards the mountain and Turkey. They clung to anything that moved, lorries, cars, taxis: each vehicle laden with people desperate to get away. The further we travelled, the slower our progress became, until the sheer weight of numbers around us brought us to a halt. From now on, we would have to walk.

The valley was punctuated with the orange glow of countless camp fires. Families and strangers stopped by the roadside for what little they had to eat and some sweet tea before continuing their walk up into the snow-covered mountains.

I watched one man place the ignition key on the dashboard of his car. "My last gift to Saddam," he said. "He's welcome to it, it never worked very well anyway." And with that he lifted his small daughter on to his shoulders, took his wife's hand, waved and disappeared into the fluid body of goats, sheep, people, mules and tatty suitcases.

Walking through this human and mechanical traffic jam, extending for miles, the sense of urgency was overpowering. People stopped. Continued page 20, col 2

Orkney children are sent home

By KERRY GILL

THE nine children at the centre of the Orkney ritual abuse case were reunited with their parents last night after five weeks in care. Their return came after a sheriff castigated the social workers who handled the affair. He ordered the immediate release of the children.

More than 200 well-wishers carrying daffodils, balloons and presents gathered at Kirkwall airport, Orkney, to welcome the children aged eight to 15 home from the mainland where they had been in care pending the outcome of yesterday's hearing. The children's parents, sobbing with delight, gave them Easter eggs and hugged them.

A piper from Kirkwall city pipe band played *Scotland the Brave* as the children, looking happy if weary and carrying teddy bears, emerged from the small customs room after meeting their parents. One mother said: "It is the most wonderful day of my life. We are just going to go home now and try and pick up the pieces of normal life."

One boy aged 11 said that he had been well treated by his foster family. "But I just want to go home." The father of another child said: "There is going to be one whole of a party. We have missed them so much, and we have all suffered so much."

David Kelbie, Sheriff of Grampian, Highland and Islands, said: "The children have been through a terrible ordeal. Continued on page 20, col 6

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Throw away salt to enjoy the spice of life

By THOMSON PRENTICE MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

USING less salt in foods could prevent up to 75,000 deaths a year in Britain from heart disease and stroke, researchers say today. The biggest impact would be achieved by manufacturers limiting the amount of salt they add to processed foods, according to specialists at St Bartholomew's hospital, London.

Links between salt consumption and high blood pressure, a big risk factor in the two conditions, are stronger than have been believed, the researchers say in the *British Medical Journal*. Cutting down on salt intake is a vital public health objective that could be achieved relatively simply and cheaply, they add.

The average daily consumption per person is nine grams. If that were reduced by three grams, it would save one person in five from a stroke, and one person in six from heart disease. The specialists say avoiding salty foods and not adding salt to food in cooking or at the table would be enough to achieve that reduction. They base their conclusions on analyses of studies of salt intake and blood pressure in 47,000 individuals around the world. The studies indicate lower rates of heart disease and stroke among people who consume less salt.

The journal says the results show conclusively that salt reduction lowers blood pressure, and that moderate reduction in dietary salt would cut the incidence of stroke by 22 per cent and ischaemic heart disease by 16 per cent in Western countries. That would be a greater effect than could be achieved by using drugs to treat hypertension.

If manufacturers reduced the amount of salt they added to processed foods, deaths from stroke and heart disease in Britain would be cut by 39 and 30 per cent respectively, the researchers say. The combined effect of reductions by individuals and manufacturers could prevent 75,000 deaths a year.

"Advising the public to reduce consumption of salt is important, but the widespread use of salt in food processing limits what individual people can readily achieve," Malcolm Law and colleagues at St Bartholomew's say. "Labelling of the salt content of foods and reduction in the amount of salt added by manufacturers to processed food is a vital public health objective."

"Such action by food manufacturers, as well as people not adding salt to food themselves... corresponds to preventing about 11,000 deaths a year in people under 65, and 75,000 deaths in all. There would also be a major reduction in disability caused by stroke."



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Children freed after sheriff's blistering criticism of officials in Orkney ritual abuse hearing

Angry crowd marches on social work department

By KERRY GILL

nine children in the Orkney ritual sexual abuse case were returned to their parents after a Scottish sheriff's blistering attack on the in which the children's and social workers had been criticised.

The criticism by David Lee, Sheriff of Orkney, Highland and Islands, left the social work department with a choice but to order the immediate release of the children, who had been in care since February 27. The four children involved, clearly shocked at the speed of the hearing, left the court in tears, almost unable to find the words to express their joy.

Minutes later, they marched with about 60 supporters to the social work department in the town of Kirkwall.



braved verbal attacks in office from angry parents

Mr Lee stood grimly behind his desk, braving verbal attacks from the parents as they demanded the return of their children, followed by his immediate resignation. The families had bottled up their emotion for more than five weeks. In Mr Lee's small, modern office, it was released in a torrent of rage.

They accused his staff of stealing their children and illegally interrogating them. Mr Lee kept asking for everyone to go except the parents. He telephoned for the police, who arrived quickly, but the anger of the crowd had abated and most agreed to leave.

One mother emerged later and said that Mr Lee had told her that the children would be returned before nightfall if possible. It was understood that an aircraft chartered by the council was standing by to bring them north after they were brought from foster families scattered across central Scotland.

Three hours later, the council issued a statement saying the children would be returned as soon as possible. The Department of the Reporter to the Children's Panel issued a similar statement.

Ordering the return of the children, Sheriff Kelbie had said that the procedures carried out by the panel and Gordon Sloan, its reporter, had been so fatally flawed as to be incompetent. He said that it had been an emotive and difficult case. "It is not very often that I lose sleep over a case that I have to decide, but this is one in which I have," he said.

The panel had not called the children to hear the allegations, which it was obliged to do. The children had been deprived of their fundamental rights, he said. "It is important to remember that children are persons and not simply subjects for proceedings." If the reporter and the hearing had borne this in mind, they could not have failed to appreciate the importance of the rules, Sheriff Kelbie said.

"It will not do if a cavalier attitude is adopted, whether the rules are observed or not. I have come to the decision that these proceedings are so fatally flawed as to be incompetent. I cannot in all conscience leave matters in that unsatisfactory state," he said. He said that he had considered documentary evidence, read interviews and listened to tapes. He added that the children, far from being taken to places of safety, were separated from one another and cross-examined to break their resolve and get them to admit to having been abused.

Two children did say things that bore a certain similarity, with the active encouragement of those conducting the interviews. This had amounted to "repeated coaching" that may well have tainted anything that might have been repeated in a court.

One child said that the abuse had never happened; other children emphatically denied that anything had occurred; another said to an interviewer: "Did you know that this was all a lie?" That remark had been brushed aside.

On the claims of ritual abuse, Sheriff Kelbie said: "I am not sure what is meant by ritual abuse. It could be anything from Kylie Minogue, Michael Jackson, Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera*, *Strip the Willow* or *The Grand Old Duke of York*." Cloaks, masks, crosses and unusual statues seized by the authorities bore little evidential significance, he added.

Sheriff Kelbie said he hoped that the reporter would give serious consideration to each child and the evidence and the manner in which it was obtained. "I hope the answer will be that they are all returned to their parents as soon as possible."

As the local lawyers for the families left the court yesterday, supporters cheered and applauded. One father said: "It is just wonderful. It was so wonderful to hear the sheriff going through and showing that the children's panel broke the law, flouted the law. The children have suffered what is basically illegal questioning. Words cannot express how I feel."



Happy families: parents embracing outside the court yesterday on learning that their children were to be returned after five weeks in care

ORKNEY SOCIAL SERVICES

Ritual fears taken to heart

THE Orkney social work department is headed by Paul Lee, its director. The two social workers at the centre of the present affair are Sue Miller, the team leader, and Michelle Miller. They are not related (Kerry Gill writes).

Many of the four families' supporters believe that some elements of the department have become infected with a quasi-religious zeal that quelled over when they seized the nine children. Almost no one except the social work department could believe that ritual sexual abuse was taking place on South Ronaldsay.

The spectre of ritual abuse stems from America although

no single case has ever been proved. At a recent conference for social workers in Scotland a speaker, who was involved in giving advice to social workers in Nottingham and Rochdale, expounded her view that ritual abuse took place.

There are many different religious groups on Orkney, ranging from the established church, Quakers and Presbyterians to members of the Orkney Christian Fellowship. The scare stories increased last year when some children said they had been to a religious summer camp on one island where exorcisms to rid them of the devil took place.

The matter was further complicated when a father on Orkney was jailed for sexually abusing some of his children. He is still in prison but last November the mother and her eight children remaining at home were seized. They are still in care.

It was the support for the mother by the four families that brought the spotlight of the social work department upon them. The issue was made even more complicated when the Rev Morris McKenzie, a Church of Scotland minister, was questioned by police in relation to the latest child sex allegations.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Call for body to provide guidance

By RONALD FAUX and JILL SHERMAN

W statutory body should be set up to register and issue social workers and de guidelines on professional practice, social service organisations said yesterday.

David Jones, general secretary of the British Association of Social Workers, called for a body which would offer "a tent standard of practice social workers could rely on". The idea was also supported by the Association of Social Workers.

Social workers had been the victims of endless ad hoc enquiries on child cases, including the case of Jasmine Beckford, Kimberley Carlisle and the alleged sex abuse Mr Jones said. The new

body, could define areas of work where only registered social workers should practice, said Mr Jones. "This could include areas where civil liberties are involved, such as taking children away from home under a place of safety order."

Speaking after the Orkney decision, Mr Jones said social workers should have more training in the techniques of interviewing children and he argued that more research was needed into how children involved in abuse cases were questioned. The task of interviewing a child who may have been abused was difficult and skilled, he said.

"Social workers tend to operate at a therapeutic level, helping a child overcome problems. Police operate according to rules of evidence and legal procedure, and often it is very difficult to disentangle the forensic approach from the therapeutic."

"Knowledge of how children should be interviewed in these cases is fairly limited. There is no great body of expert knowledge to fall back on and these skills need to be more widely discussed and reviewed so that guidance can be given."

Mr Jones said that child abuse investigations were not lightly embarked upon. They took time, energy and there was a personal cost to the social worker. In most cases the evidence came without the social worker deliberately looking for it. "They are not on the streets waiting to pounce but they have to react when they hear a distressing or disturbing story from a child. The cases in Orkney and Rochdale are distressing but the reality is that across the country there are thousands of children who are being protected by social workers who are also working in partnership with parents," he said.

Parliament had carried out a thorough review of child care law but legislation could never resolve the dilemma of a social worker faced with the child who brought allegations against his or her own parents, he said. "There is no simple solution to that. You have to make a judgement on each case and most of the time we get it right," he said.

Peter Thomson, a Rochdale councillor and social services committee member, said yesterday that the Orkney result, following the Rochdale and Cleveland cases, demonstrated that the guidelines from the Department of Health on abuse cases should be given the force of law. "The protection of children has to be a community responsibility and a clear line is needed on when the social services can and cannot act. Otherwise this nonsense will go on," he said. The notorious cases had at least given practical experience on the best way of handling future cases of children subjected to satanic, sexual or ritual abuse.

Barry Barton, of Parents Against Injustice (Pain), said the main concern was not that social workers had failed to observe good practice in one or two big cases that received a lot of publicity. There were other families Pain dealt with that did not receive the same attention. The nub of the problem, he said, was that police acted under criminal law requiring proof that was beyond reasonable doubt but social workers operated under civil law and acted when there was a balance of probability that a child had been abused.

AN IN THE NEWS

No-nonsense but fair judge

By KERRY GILL

VID Kelbie, the tall, red-headed sheriff who delivered such a withering attack on the Orkney children's el procedures, yesterday became the most popular man on the islands. Sheriff Kelbie, aged 45, is regarded as a no-nonsense but fair judge. His onslaught into the way the nine children had been placed in care was hailed as a victory, not only for the four families involved in the cases, but also as a vindication of the law.

Sheriff Kelbie is married, has a son and daughter. A hearseman, he was educated at Inverurie Academy, Aberdeen and studied law at Aberdeen University and writes on

law for legal publications. Sheriff Kelbie is also a member of the UK/Ireland committee of Christian Aid. He lists his hobbies as sailing and hill-walking. Interestingly, in view of his stated ignorance of so-called "ritualistic music", the sheriff spends much of his spare time relaxing to jazz and folk music.

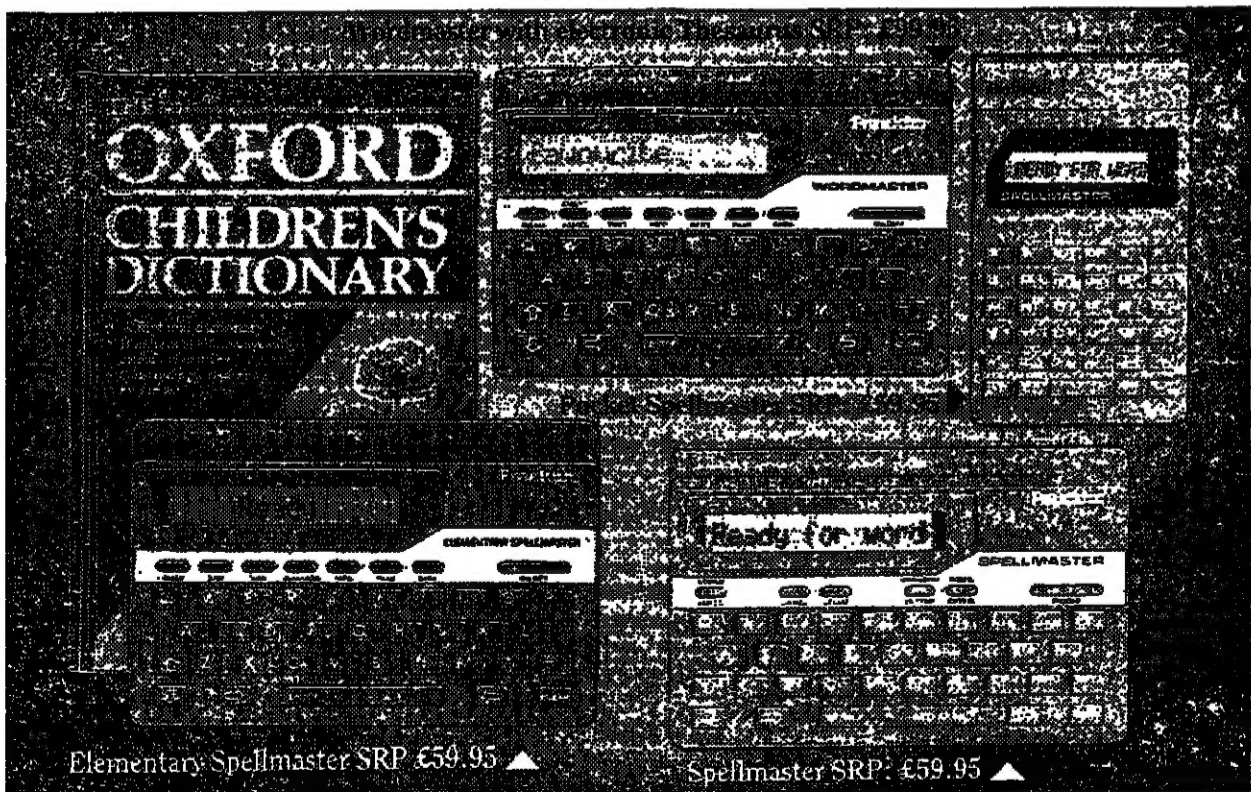
It was clear that he was determined to allow justice to be seen to be done, a demand repeatedly voiced by the supporters of the families. The hearing at Kirkwall sheriff court was in chambers, although after a request from the press he decided that they should be allowed in. His firm stand, however, was indicated with a warning that lapses would result in that privilege being withdrawn.

There was, he said, no legal right for the press to be present but, because of the parents' and their legal representatives' desire, he would allow the assessment to be held in public.



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Implanted lens helps to restore dogs' sight

By MICHAEL HORNSEY

BLIND dogs which have sight restored by micro-surgery and hearing dogs which serve as their masters' ears are adding a new dimension to the bond between man and his most famously faithful non-human friend.

Examples of both were on display yesterday at the opening of the three-day British Small Animal Veterinary Association congress in Birmingham's new International Convention Centre. It is being attended by 3,000 delegates from all over the world.

Bibby, an eight-year-old, light-brown, wire-haired dachshund, developed cataracts in both eyes two years ago and became totally blind. Now, thanks to implanted plastic lenses, she can see again, apparently as well as ever.

"Before the operation, Bibby would not leave the house and was snappy and bad-tempered. All we have to do is put saline drops in her eyes," Dominic Carlton, from Barnham, West Sussex, said. The £300 lens implant was carried out at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in Edinburgh by Simon Petersen-Jones, one of

three vets in Britain doing this surgery. He said: "The damaged opaque lens is removed and replaced by a plastic one that is held in position by small springs. A company has just started making lenses specifically for dogs."

Cataracts are often a

secondary consequence of diabetes, which affects 1.5 per cent of Britain's 7.5 million domestic dogs. That was the case with two white-haired Serbian samoyeds which had lens implants. Their owner, Barbara Barton of Wribbenhall, Hereford and

Worcestershire, could only afford to have one eye treated in each dog. "Even that has made a big difference," she said. "They are chasing the cats out of the garden again."

David Greed, a cash processor with a bank in Hastings, is almost totally deaf. His life, he said yesterday, had been revolutionised when he acquired Danny, a brown Labrador cross, 18 months ago.

There are now 115 hearing dogs, still far fewer than the more familiar guide dogs for the blind, as Tony Blunt, director of Hearing Dogs Deaf, founded in 1911, wants to increase their number by about 40 a year.

AN INFERTILITY clinic is almost certain to abandon its plan to allow a white woman to act as a surrogate mother for an Asian couple who cannot have children.

The ethical committee at the Bourn Hall clinic, Cambridgeshire, is to reconsider the proposal after the woman, named only as Mrs Dawn Bowler, aged 28, gave an interview to the *Sun* newspaper.

Peter Brinsden, medical director of the clinic, said yesterday: "I feel very uneasy about proceeding with this case. Surrogate births arrangements need to be handled with great care. Unfortunately this is one that has gone wrong."

The Interim Licensing Authority, which monitors the practices of infertility centres, is also worried. The authority's guidelines say that the identity of surrogate mothers should not be disclosed. The couple involved will now have to seek another surrogate willing to be implanted with one of their embryos.

no uterus but healthy ovaries, had two eggs removed and fertilised by her husband's sperm at the private clinic, founded by the pioneers of in vitro fertilisation, Professor Robert Edwards and the late Patrick Steptoe.

The embryos were frozen at the clinic and the couple then responded to a local newspaper advertisement by a white woman, who has five children, offering to act as a surrogate mother. As comm-



Dawn Bowler: agreed to be surrogate mother

Dawn Bowler: agreed to be surrogate mother



Advertising an press in front line of recessio

Champagne is off the menu in the media world as newspapers, television and advertising agencies are hard hit by a sharp decline in revenue. Andrew Lycett reports:

PEOPLE working in the media have been some of the earliest and hardest hit victims of the recession.

As general spending power has declined, revenue has dropped sharply and newspapers, television and advertising agencies have been in the front line. Times are so hard that, on one national newspaper, a memorandum has been sent round instructing journalists not to order champagne when they are entertaining contacts.

In the print media, increases of 5 to 7 per cent in advertising revenue were predicted, even at the start of last year. The outcome, however, was zero growth, according to Bronwen Maddox, media analyst at Kleinfwort Benson.

The first category to be affected was general display advertising. Then, in the past three months, recruitment advertising has plummeted. The result has been "six pretty dreadful months" and although circulations, particularly in magazines, have held up well, profit estimates for 1990 have had to be cut by a third, Miss Maddox says.

With relatively fixed costs, publishers have little room for manoeuvre in those circumstances. Immediate tactics have been to slash expenses, cut pagination and boost advertising features. When that has not worked, they shed staff and, all too often, close titles.

Nobody escapes the lash. In the past fortnight, the first of the new television listings magazines, *TV Plus*, unexpectedly folded, as did one of the two trade papers, *Journalist's Week*.

Meanwhile, *The Telegraph* announced was making 11 jobs compulsorily redundant leading media he blames bad management some of the worst. "Managers rise thru ranks of publishing panics," she says. have little money in their training. At sign of trouble, they

If anything, televis has worse affect general drop of 20 p in advertising revenue now accepted. This a time when the BI had its licence fee, and ITV companies conserving their re for their new fit round. As a result number of jobs in dent television will dropped from 17,619 to 11,000 at the end of next year.

Channel 4, which is funding from ITV, had to make drastic cuts in spending on productions.

In advertising itself, the venue is down 17 per cent around a quarter inflation into a quarter. Inflation has translated into 10 per cent cuts in advertising. Advertisers are simply spending money.

However, all is not Janice Hughes, partner in the media practice consultants Booz Allen Hamilton, says that, "a recession bottoms out at the end of the year, the U.S. in the media business is just as sudden as the

The champagne could be popping by Christmas. But maybe that is media hype.

Tourists told to boycott Thailand

HOLIDAYMAKERS should boycott Thailand until it ends an illegal trade in wildlife which threatens some of the world's rarest species, the World Wide Fund for Nature said yesterday.

The fund urged Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, to ban wildlife products exported from Thailand, such as lizard-skin handbags. Rhinoceroses, Asian elephants, tigers and hyscintine macaws are among species threatened because Thailand flouts the convention on international trade in endangered species, the fund said.

"Thailand is probably the worst country in the world for the illegal trade in endangered wildlife," Simon Lyster, the fund's senior conservation officer, said. "If allowed to continue, this illegal trade could drive some species to extinction."

Seven judges may rule on rape appeal

A PANEL of seven law might be convened to final ruling on whether centuries-old legal principle that a man cannot be guilty of raping his wife is defunct.

Last month, five Circuit Court of Appeals judges dismissed appeal by a husband against a conviction of a man who was jailed for three years for the attempted rape of his estranged wife. The husband was given leave to appeal to the Supreme Court.

Because of the impossibility of the appeal, it will be heard before the end of the legal year on July 31. His Lords' appeals are heard by five law lords: it is possible for seven to sit. The Court of Appeal overturned a 250-year principle of English law: a man cannot be guilty of a crime in his wife unless they are separated or there is a compelling order against

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Forecast of disruption to primary school tests

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

First tests under the new curriculum are likely to be disrupted next week in London and may not be conducted properly in areas of the country, a teachers' union leader said today.

Mr de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said his prediction after a visit to the annual conference in Bournemouth, rejected calls to boycott standard assessment (SATs). They did not, however, say that teachers were disciplined for following the union's policy of not conducting such tests, which is possible during a "normal" working week.

Mr de Gruchy forecast that SATs in some inner city boroughs would be disrupted as members of the National Union of Teachers refused to do extra work to make them. Elsewhere, he said, many teachers were likely to fill in test scores at home through frustration, and very seriously doubt that SATs will be delivered.

Advertising mess in schools' lies of recession can ruin teachers'

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

Teachers face ruin from an advertising mess in schools which claim that they have been hit or bullied in the recession, a teachers' union leader said yesterday.

Mr de Gruchy said that naive teachers, who too often believe the lies, should be protected from imaginative and vindictive children. Eberon, of Rutlish high school, in Merton Park, south London, told the Association of Teachers' and Mistresses' conference in Bournemouth that there had been an increase in the number of false allegations.

This year the association spent about £308,000 on legal fees. "Young people can, in distorting the make very serious and damaging allegations which have a devastating effect on individual members of staff and do great harm to a school," he said.

The association also said yesterday that teachers' work-week spent most of the time on paperwork was a quarter of the time on teaching. A survey by Warwick City's education department said that teachers spent 24 minutes a day on preparation and 24 minutes on marking. Only 20 minutes of the day were left for teaching.

At three-quarters of secondary schools teachers had a bigger workload than last year. Many teachers said that a lack of time was the most serious obstacle to improving the national curriculum.

Bright-light cure for early wakers

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

AUSTRALIAN psychologist believes that he has found a cure for people who wake up too early in the morning. Just before midnight they were switched off, the aim being to convince the insomniacs that it was still daylight, pushing forward their low-temperature phase closer to the 5am normal for most people.

After two days the subjects were found to be sleeping an average of 90 minutes longer. "It seems to change their pattern right away," Dr Lack said. "The extra sleep was still present with them a week after the study. It seems their temperature rhythms were just out of phase with the normal environment."

Dr Lack said that the lamps used were ten times brighter than normal house lighting, which would not be powerful enough to work.



Flower girl: senior staff nurse Jane Radnor of Marie Curie Cancer Care with some of the blooms which the charity will give away tomorrow in exchange for a donation on Daffodil Day, its national collecting day. The charity will hand over 1½ million daffodils in an effort to raise £200,000

BR faces challenge on legality of cuts

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

SUCCESSIVE cuts in rural and urban rail timetables could be in violation of British Rail's statutory obligation to maintain loss-making services, the government-appointed rail watchdog said yesterday.

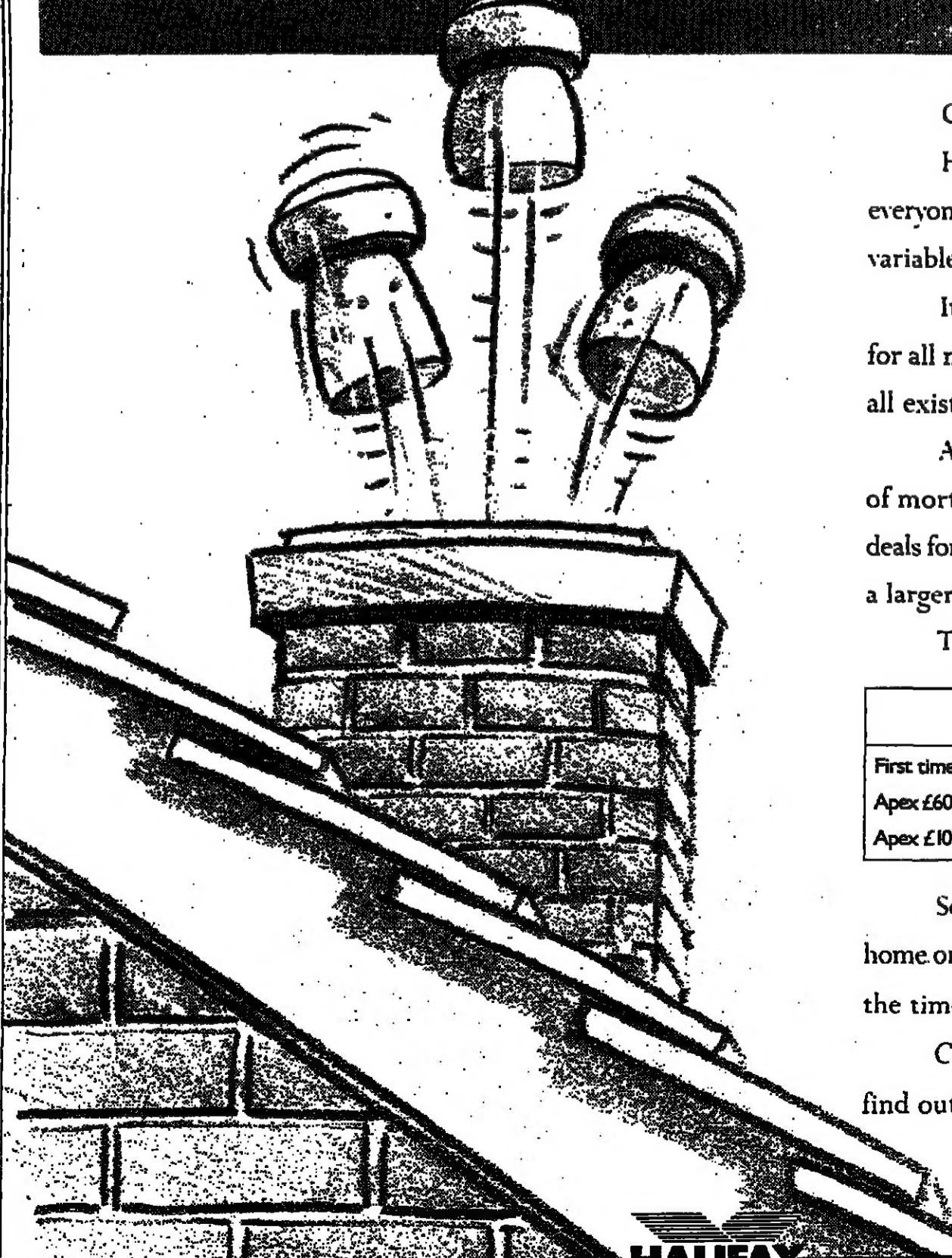
Challenging the legality of recent and proposed service cuts, the central transport consultative committee, representing passenger interests, accused BR of disguising the extent of cutbacks on rural and urban lines. "Cuts to be introduced in July will mean that the service on 37 per cent of routes will be less than that provided in 1988," it said.

The service reductions, it said, may be in breach of the 1988 ministerial direction requiring BR to maintain loss-making but socially necessary services.

BR rejected the allegations, insisting it was duty bound to run rail services economically. "An initiative aimed at making train journeys safer for women travelling alone was launched yesterday by British Transport police. The Travel Safe scheme is designed to advise women on the practical steps they can take to protect themselves."

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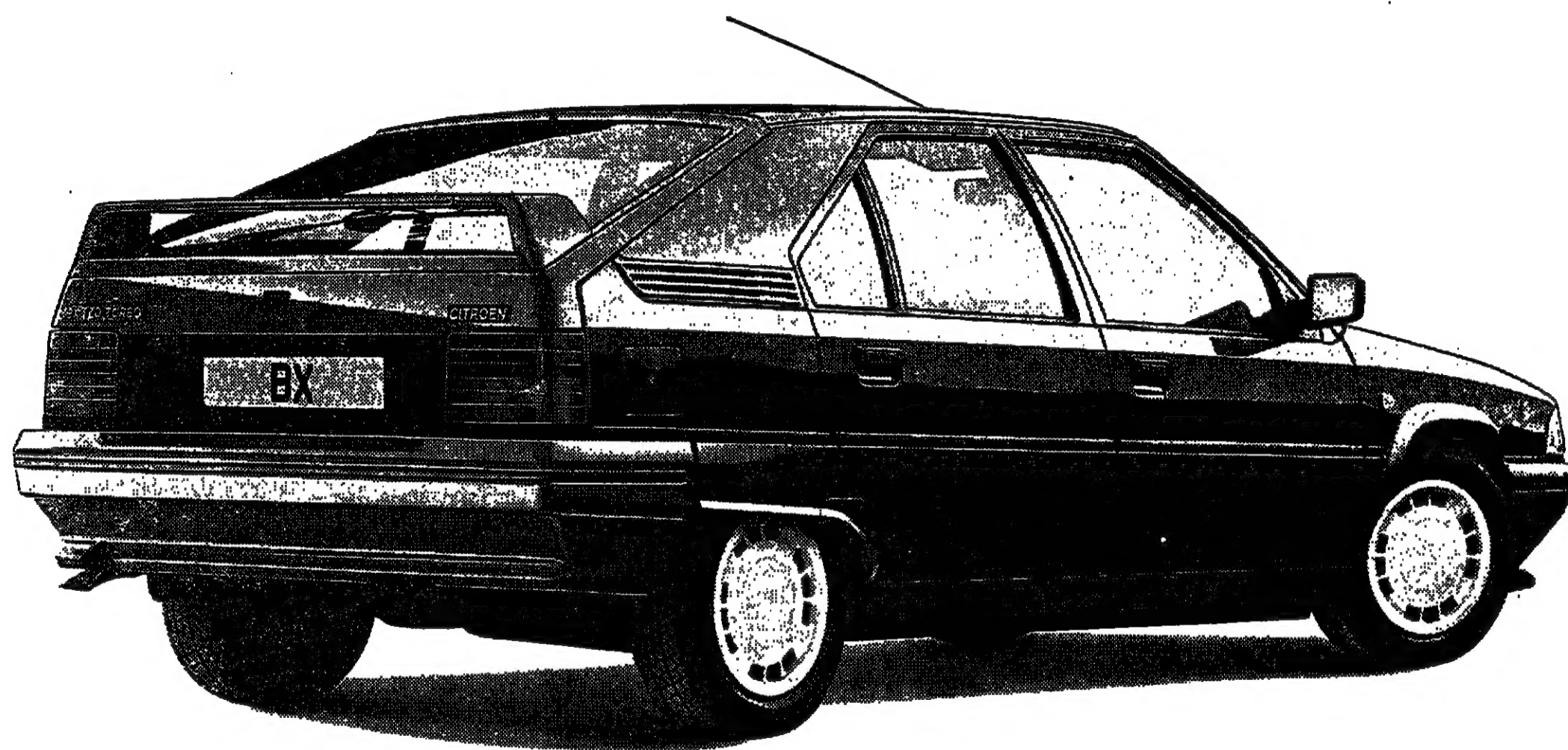
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impartial

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to UNICEF
and help
at children
all over
the world

UNICEF (9)

هكذا من الناحية

Dusted vicar says church court was not impartial

By PAUL WILKINSON

Canon Gutsell, who has been flying through black smoke clouds billowing from the blazing Kuwaiti oil fields said yesterday that levels of pollution were only ten times worse than on a busy day in London and that soot levels were similar to a "dirty day" in Britain.

Acid rain, black snow and other noxious chemicals are likely to fall over the Gulf, Iran, Iraq, southeastern Turkey and possibly as far away as Afghanistan until the fires are extinguished. Initial findings indicate, however, that environmental damage will be largely regional and much less severe than some scientists had feared.

The researchers, a team from the Meteorological Office's research flight, released their preliminary results as Snoopy, the Hercules C-130 research plane used in the operation, touched down at RAF Farnborough. Only a thin coating of soot bore visible testament to the 55 hours of daylight missions which were turned almost to night as the plane and its cargo of advanced monitoring instruments scanned the clouds.

Dr Keith Browning, director of research, said that the average size of the smoke particles was 0.3 microns, the ideal size for absorbing the maximum amount of sunlight. The data collected, the first hard evidence on the environmental impact of the oil fires, will take more than a year to assimilate. The initial findings, however, are already confirming the accuracy of computer models which predicted the movement of the Kuwaiti smoke plumes before Snoopy left in late March. There had been fears that the smoke might rise high enough to enter and be trapped in the stratosphere from where it could circulate around the globe, acting as a dust shield and causing world-wide cooling. The findings indicate that this is not taking place, with only traces of smoke pollution being found at heights of 25,000ft.

Measurements taken 62 miles away from the source of the fires found that the maximum concentrations of smoke particles were at about 6,000ft. Doug Johnson, one of the scientists involved, said that some of the concentrations were as high as 30,000 smoke particles per cubic centimetre. At about 125 miles downwind of the plume concentrations had fallen often to between 3,000 to 5,000 particle counts.

"On a very dirty day with an easterly wind blowing off the Continent, so that the air has been blowing from the German and French industrial areas, we have made measurements of 3,000 to 5,000 cubic centimetres in Britain," Mr Johnson said. Over Saudi Arabia, 625 miles away, levels had fallen even lower to less than 1,000 counts per cubic centimetre.

Other key chemicals studied were sulphur dioxide, which causes acid rain, and nitrogen oxides. About 62 miles downwind of the fires these were found to be, on average, at levels of only ten times greater than those detected on a busy day in London.

Danny McKenna, another of the mission's scientists, said fears that the fires would lead to sharp increases in ground level ozone also appeared to be unfounded.

Scientists dispel darkest fears over Kuwaiti oil fires

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT



Sooty sweep: Chris Kilsby, left, and Martin Lampitt clearing grime from the Hercules they flew over Kuwait

BRITISH scientists who have been flying through black smoke clouds billowing from the blazing Kuwaiti oil fields said yesterday that levels of pollution were only ten times worse than on a busy day in London and that soot levels were similar to a "dirty day" in Britain.

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Life freed in bomb plot case

nan accused of plotting a series of explosions in Britain the case against her yesterday because of a strong evidence. In McKane, aged 26, of den, northwest London, red before Thames magistrates with three others, including her husband Wil-Ackane, aged 23. Liam McKane, Nesson Ivan, aged 28, from Lint-and Pearse McAuley, 15, from Strabane, were ited in custody for trial d with conspiracy to explosions. Quinlivan McAuley are further d with conspiracy to r Sir Charles Tidbury, r chairman of the read brewing company

aine seized ne worth £7 million has eized from a bulk carrier arrived at Immingham Humberside, on Tues-on Colombia. The crew g questioned.

nder appeal d Harte, the only one of rish nationals convicted ury in The Netherlands murder of two Austras-urists last May, is t against the verdict, his said yesterday.

prosecution y Robinson, Labour Coventry North West, to be prosecuted for ing a shotgun without a te after accidentally g his son in the foot at ome in Godalming, police said.

thers die l O'Neill, aged 6, and her Edward, aged five, sterday in a fire at their ear Castlecomer, Co y.

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Moscow urges republics to avert budget deficit

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet Union, facing imminent financial collapse, yesterday held back from taking tougher action to force its 15 republics to remit money to the central budget. The Soviet parliament was told that any harsh action would only lead to greater tension.

The cash crunch has arisen as a result of the republics refusing to pay up their contributions or deciding to spend the money in their own territories. Viktor Kucherenko, the chairman of the

parliament's budget committee, said Moscow would soon run out of money to pay state employees and the army.

His statement to parliament amounted to an admission that the Soviet Union has effectively disintegrated as a financial unit, with republics choosing to freeze their contributions. Their action means that the provisional budget agreement, reached between central and republic leaders in early January, has been widely disregarded and

that Moscow's attempt to bring the republics into line voluntarily has failed.

Quoting preliminary figures for the first quarter of the year, which showed a central budget deficit of 35 billion roubles (£35 billion at the official exchange rate), he said that on an annual projection the budget deficit could exceed 200 billion roubles. Virtually every republic was withholding money, Mr Kucherenko said, continued resistance from the republics would cur-

tail social benefits, pensions and compensation for increased consumer prices. "It will end badly for the republics," he said.

Earlier this week, it was disclosed that Mr Kucherenko, together with senior monetary officials, had written to President Gorbachev predicting economic ruin if tough measures were not taken to bring the deficit under control. In the letter, they asked for special powers that would allow the state bank to confiscate the amounts due.

However, Mr Kucherenko suggested yesterday that any attempt to collect the money forcibly would only "increase tension" and proposed a softer line. He presented a draft appeal - subsequently passed by a large majority - to the parliaments of all the republics outlining the current financial risks.

A late attempt by President Gorbachev's military adviser, Sergei Akhromeyev, to include a paragraph outlining the dire consequences of continued non-payment failed to obtain the necessary majority and was dropped.

Yeltsin's new powers, page 20

Soviet miners reject pay deal

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN MOSCOW

A MONTH-old strike by Soviet coal miners, which the government had hoped would be settled on Wednesday after it promised to double the miners' wages, continued yesterday in most of the country's coalfields.

Strike leaders in the Ukrainian Donbas coalfield, the largest in the European Soviet Union, yesterday dismissed the pay offer and vowed to continue their strike. According to a strike committee

official from the Donetsk coalfields in the Ukraine, 177 pits were out, along with 55 other coal-mining enterprises and five ore mines.

The miners said that about 300,000 of their colleagues had joined the strike, disrupting a third of the country's coal production.

Some 10,000 demonstrators called yesterday for the resignation of President Gorbachev at a rally in Minsk, the Belorussian capital, where

several factories were paralysed by strikes, according to Soviet media reports. The demonstrators, including workers' representatives from many of the city's largest

factories, students and doctors, gathered in Lenin Square in the centre of the city outside the government buildings, Tass said. They called for the doubling or tripling of wages to compensate for the drastic price increases which were introduced on Tuesday.



Red letter play: Albanian children brandishing giant characters of a communist slogan thrown from the top of the party headquarters during this week's clashes in Shkoder. A fourth person shot in the disturbances after the elections last weekend died yesterday as a one-day national strike

called by the Democratic opposition got under way (John Holland writes from Tirana). The organisers said the aim of the stoppage was to force the communist government to renounce the use of violence which, as well as the four deaths, has injured dozens of people and severely damaged the

credibility of Albania's first free elected government, a communist in 70 years. Sali Berisha, chairman of the Democratic party, said: "communications are not the best, we hope through this action to convey the message that the days of intimidation are over."

Serbs prepare to repel Croats from villages

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BOROVO, NORTHERN CROATIA

ARMED guards in Borovo were nervous yesterday, apparently expecting an attack by Croatian special police units. "For your own safety you cannot leave for the moment," said Mladen Jovic. Armed with a pistol, he is a leader of the Serbian uprising in this small Croatian town.

Borovo is one of several Serbian minority towns and villages in the northern Slavonia region of Croatia which has thrown up barricades since last weekend's ethnic clashes at Plitvice. Its defences are formidable, with lorries, felled trees, rubble and oil on the road. "We'll set that alight when the Croatian police come," said one armed resident.

At the barricades, earnest young men scan the horizon with binoculars and check the documents of all those entering the town. Only those whom the guards know can enter. Most have rifles although a few carry Kalashnikovs, which were captured during a clash with Croatian police on Sunday. "Twenty came here but we chased them out, they were scared," said one man. "I'm on the Croatian 'wanted' list." He also said that he had recently lost his job because he was Serbian. "No one was being paid there anyway. All the money was being used by the Croatian government to import arms."

According to Dr Jovic, local Serbs wanted this area to be

part of Serbia, and he declared that it wanted the rival republic. "I thought Croatian leaders just the same as the who murdered the Serbs during the war... want to be ruled men."

Dr Jovic said the people of Borovo would accept then barricades will stay where we are incorporated or we die... it's death." In anticipation of clashes, Dr Jovic many children had sent to friends and relatives.

In nearby Pacetina the armed villagers living in the shade of a wood. Their leader, Hadjic, was arrested on last Sunday at his sister, Goranka, that he was "just through" when he was "severely beaten" by Croatian police. She added: "Ustashi are all around but we're ready for we'll fight." The Ustashi the name of Croatia's wartime army.

In neighbouring villages life still seems "nervous" asked a man incredulously. "Should we be nervous? Croats in our own land. It's those Serbs here who have a problem."

Growing poverty: taxes Kohl reform

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

THE divisions between the two halves of Germany widened last month as unemployment rose inexorably in the formerly communist-ruled east.

The worsening economic situation in the east persuaded Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, to cut short his Easter holiday. He returns to Bonn today, where his in-tray is piled high.

The murder this week of Dietrich Rohwedder, head of the Treuhand agency set up to privatise east German industry, means that the chancellor must approve a new head for the organisation he has entrusted with the task of purging the economy of the communist system. Herr Rohwedder's tough reputation has made Treuhand unpopular in the east, and the

chancellor knows he change the organisation if it is to succeed.

He will visit the east end of the month to increasing criticism if he has ignored the economic situation. Before he would like to have a new of Treuhand in place at known to be a task of appointing a woman, Breuel, the agency's president and a former minister in Lower Saxony. Frau Breuel has been involved in attempts to concentrate more on structuring lame-duck companies than had been envisaged. The chancellor was forced by the anger at the deterioration in the economic situation and unemployment.

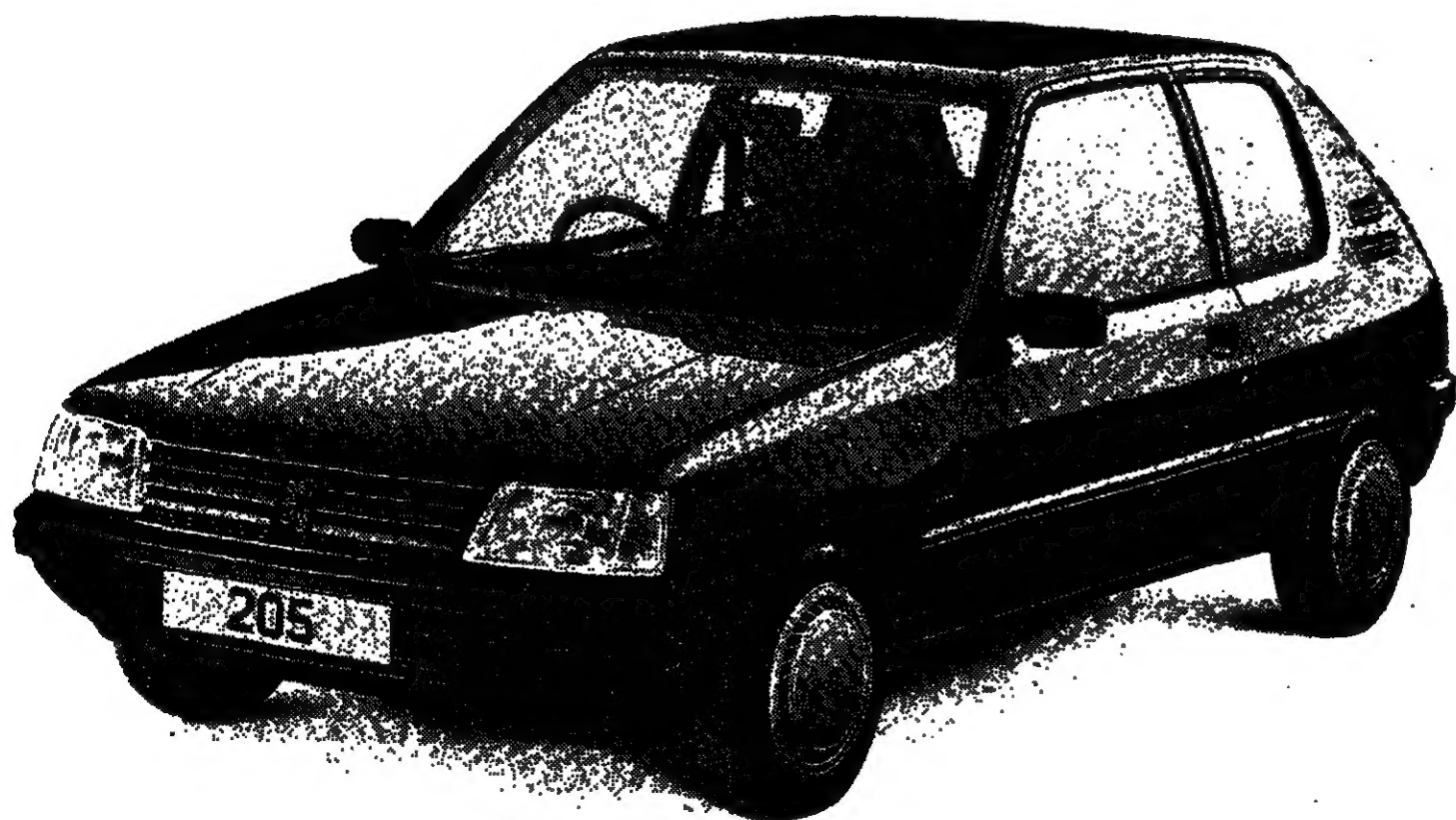
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Hurd gives Peking ultimatum on airport

By JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

LAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, warned China yesterday that plans to build a \$5 billion airport in Hong Kong will be scrapped unless the Chinese government agrees to the terms of the 1985 Joint Declaration. Mr Hurd told Hong Kong radio that the British government had received a letter from the Chinese government stating that the airport would be built on the Kowloon Peninsula. Mr Hurd said that the British government was not prepared to accept this proposal, as it would be a breach of the Joint Declaration, which states that the airport should be built on Lantau Island.

Tamil separatists attack army base

Tamil separatist forces fought a battle with Sri Lankan troops for control of a base in the northern peninsula, a senior official said. The fighting was part of a series of attacks on military bases in the north. The separatists claimed to have killed several soldiers and captured weapons. The Sri Lankan army responded by launching a counter-offensive, but the separatists managed to hold the base for several days. The fighting has caused a large number of civilians to flee the area.

Talks

Toshiki Kaifu, the prime minister, is expected to meet President Bush in Washington today to try to improve relations between Japan and the United States. Mr Kaifu is expected to discuss a range of issues, including trade, security, and human rights. The meeting is seen as an important step towards normalising relations between the two countries.

Allegation

A French prisoner of war in the Vietnam war has filed a complaint against the French government, alleging that he was mistreated while in captivity. The prisoner, who was held for several years, claims that he was subjected to physical and psychological abuse. He is now living in France and is seeking compensation for the damages he suffered.

ps 'repelled'

The Khmer Rouge had pushed back a cent offensive on its western and northern borders, guerrillas announced. The announcement came after a series of battles in which the Khmer Rouge forces defeated the government army. The guerrillas claimed to have captured a large number of weapons and supplies. The government has denied the report, claiming that the Khmer Rouge forces were still in retreat.

Hindu fervour sets tone for election

THOUSANDS of thousands of dancing Hindus in central Delhi in a staggering display of devotion to the Hindu deity, Lord Krishna, set the tone for the election. The festival, known as the Holi festival, was held in the heart of the city and attracted a large number of devotees. The festival was a display of Hindu religious fervour and was seen as a sign of the strength of the Hindu community in India. The election is expected to be a closely fought contest between the Hindu Nationalist Party and the Congress party.



Blossoming relations: all smiles in Peking yesterday as Douglas Hurd meets his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen, for the talks on Hong Kong

Marchers protest at New Zealand benefit cuts

From RICHARD LONG
IN WELLINGTON

ABOUT 100,000 New Zealanders marched in cities and towns throughout the country yesterday to protest against large benefit cuts and radical changes in labour law which will greatly reduce trade union power.

Schools were closed as all of the country's 50,000 teachers deserted classrooms to join in the protest. While the marches were largely peaceful, in Auckland one section of the crowd of 10,000 set fires in the streets and burned effigies of Jim Bolger, the prime minister, Ruth Richardson, the finance minister, and Jenny Shipley, the social welfare minister. Shop windows were broken and two people were arrested.

The marches followed the introduction of a new Employment Contracts Bill, which abolishes compulsory unionism, the exclusive right of unions to bargain on behalf of workers, and changes national awards in favour of shopfloor collective or individual contracts. While the government argues that this will encourage productivity and growth, the unions say it will undermine workers' rights and reduce wages.

The Council of Trade Unions, which is organising a week of protests, said the council would consider union calls for a general strike.

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Police arrest township suspects

From GAVIN BELL
IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African police have arrested 24 men and claimed a breakthrough in investigations into black township violence, which has claimed more than 1,200 lives in the past seven months.

Eight were detained in connection with the killings of 15 mourners at a prayer vigil in Alexandra township, Johannesburg, last week, including Dixon Mbatia, aged 27, charged with murder. The others were held after killings in Natal at the weekend, in which at least 25 people died.

Meanwhile, the carnage continues. Patrick Majoor, a Zulu chief in the Richmond area near Durban, reported that six members of his community had been hacked to death, including a girl, aged eight.

In an unrelated court case, Eugene Marais, aged 28, a white right-wing fanatic, was sentenced to death yesterday for killing seven blacks by opening fire on a crowded bus in revenge for the stabbing of whites on the Durban beachfront by black extremists last October.

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Flawed history underpins Iraqi claims to Kuwait territory

MEDIA attention has remained focused on the northwestern Gulf ever since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2, 1990. But this should not disguise the fact that Iraqi claims to Kuwait territory have been pursued with remarkable consistency over the past half a century by monarchies and republican regimes alike. These claims are likely to survive President Saddam Hussein and, indeed, his successors.

Since 1938, Iraqi claims to Kuwait territory have been pursued on two levels: that Kuwait should be administered as an integral part of Iraqi territory; or that the boundary between Kuwait and Iraq should be modified to allow Iraq greater access to the waters of the Gulf.

Intermittently but vociferously, Iraq has laid claim to the whole of Kuwait. This occurred on three

occasions: in 1938 by Iraq's foreign minister, Tawfiq al-Suwaidi; in 1961 by General Kassim on the announcement of Kuwaiti independence; and, most recently, to justify Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait last year. Iraq's claim is based on the argument that the sheikhdom formed an integral part of the former Ottoman province of Basra.

It is not difficult to rebut the historical claim: to stand any chance of success, it would need to be conclusively proven that after the second world war the allied powers intended Iraq and Kuwait to be administered together as one state during the settlement of Middle East questions. This was demonstrably not the case. Iraq has admitted the existence of Kuwait as an independent state on many occasions and in October 1963, after Iraq had first recognised the independent Kuwaiti state and its boundaries, ambassadors were exchanged. Iraq's simultaneous pursuit of modifications to its boundary with Kuwait throughout this time further nullifies the strength of the historical claim.

Successive regimes in Baghdad have pursued claims to all or part of their southern neighbour, and the vague frontier treaties of the past ensure that the question will not go away despite a UN ceasefire agreement, Richard Schofield writes

Since 1938 Iraq has also sought changes to the existing boundary which would improve its limited access to the waters of the Gulf. This has typically involved requests for the cession or lease of the strategically important Kuwaiti islands of Warbah and Bubiyan. Such a move, if successful, would give the Baghdad government control over the approaches to the Az Zubayr on which Iraq's second dry cargo port, Umm Qasr, is situated. Despite signing the 1963 agreement, apparently recognising the boundary delimitation on its own merits, Iraq has consistently demanded satisfaction on the islands question before any consideration of demarcating the boundary would be entertained.

Kuwait, which has tenaciously resisted all suggestions that it might cede or trade portions of its northern land and islands, has refused to consider leasing Warbah and Bubiyan, unless Iraq first agreed to the demarcation of the existing boundary.

The Kuwait-Iraq agreement of 1963, which the United Nations Security Council specifies as the basis for a final settlement and delineation of the boundary in the ceasefire resolution, is far from a detailed document. All it states is that Iraq agrees to respect the boundary introduced by the 1932 exchange of notes. The main trouble here is that the 1932 boundary definition was vague, embracing no more exact references than "along the Batin" and "south of Safwan".

For years no one knew precisely where the boundary ran on the ground. For years Britain relied on the most southerly date palm at Safwan as a reference point for the boundary. The futility of such crude methods was underlined after the second world war, when it transpired that the Iraqis had planted additional palm trees. It was not until 1951 that Britain finally came to a conclusion about the delimitation it had meant to introduce by the 1932 exchange of notes. This interpretation — an attempt to patch up a poorly defined boundary — has since come to be accepted by most observers to constitute the course of the Kuwait-Iraq boundary. Yet there is no reference to it in the 1963 agreement.

Moreover, had Iraq in 1963 been genuinely reconciled to the

existing boundary, it might have been expected that provisions would be included in the agreement for final decision. It was not, and Iraq returned to the offensive on islands question.

The long-established Iraqi claims on Kuwaiti territory suggest that the border islands question will not dissolve with the current confrontation. Stability in the northwestern Gulf will probably depend on it. Sides reaching an accommodation according to a formula guarantees the territorial integrity and security of Kuwait and addresses Iraq's strategic objective for secure access to the Persian Gulf. *Kuwait and Iraq: Historical and Territorial Disputes* by R. Schofield is published at £7.50.

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DIPLOMACY

Turkish tour prompts plea from French for refugee aid

FROM MICHAEL BONYON IN ISTANBUL

BERNARD Kouchner, the French minister for humanitarian policy, yesterday visited Turkey's mountainous frontier with Iraq, where about 250,000 Iraqi Kurds are trapped in increasingly desperate conditions, and appealed for international help to prevent a slaughter.

Dr Kouchner earlier held talks in Ankara with Ahmet Kucukce, Alptemucin, the Turkish foreign minister, on joint initiatives to force the United Nations to prevent Iraqi attacks on fleeing Kurdish civilians. The French minister will have talks in Tehran today to muster Iranian support for international action.

A French spokesman here said Paris was ready to provide whatever emergency aid was needed: food and medicine could be channelled through the Turkish government or the Turkish Red Crescent so that they could go straight to the thousands of Kurds who have fled to the emergency border camps.

The unmarked frontier has now been closed and the army is patrolling the region, turning away all journalists and civilians. Regional authorities estimate that there are 110,000 Iraqis on the border and 80,000 more moving towards it. Turkey is sending flour to field bakeries set up along the frontier, and milk powder for babies. A tent city has been erected for 25,000 people in Hakkari province, and calls have gone out for at least 40,000 blankets. Eight Turkish health teams are struggling to cope with the refugees.

Rafi Dahham al-Takriti, the Iraqi ambassador, was summoned to the foreign ministry in Ankara and told that Turkey would not stand aside if

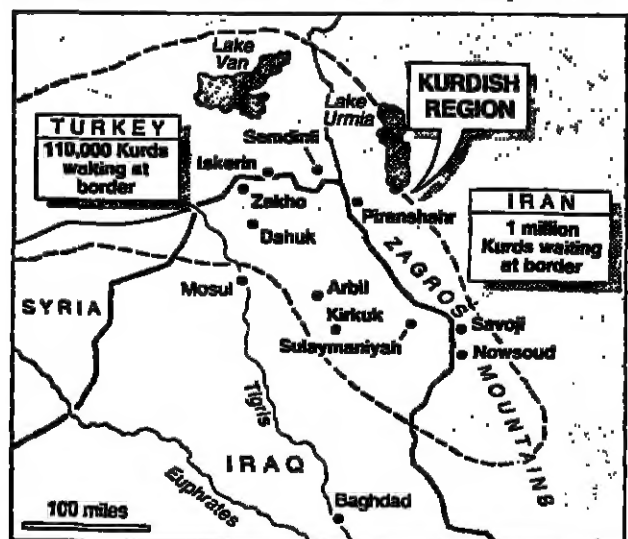
Iraqi troops attacked the Kurds. A government source said: "We have no intention of interfering in the internal affairs of Iraq, but cannot stay indifferent to a massacre next door." Mr Alptemucin told parliament on Wednesday that a number of artillery and mortar shells fired at the refugees had landed several miles inside Turkey.

The situation at the frontier remained confused. The government denied that it had closed the border, but said it could not allow the influx of 250,000 people, and it was trying to make entry more difficult. Ethnic Turks have apparently been given preference. The Anatolian news agency said nearly 2,000 Iraqi Turkomans had crossed the border since Sunday.

Estimates of the numbers who have arrived in the past four days vary from 7,489 given by regional authorities in Diyarbakir to 50,000 from residents of Uludere, a town six miles from Iraq. The border villages are full, with many refugees sleeping in the open in sub-zero temperatures.

Turkish newspapers have given prominence to relief efforts, but they have also accused the world of turning a blind eye and giving Turkey insufficient aid to cope. A foreign ministry official said: "We are in danger of receiving a quarter of a million Iraqis. Which Western country could receive this number in the space of a few days? Western governments gave the Kurds a lot of hope, but the result was terrible. Now... they are washing their hands."

President Ozal rang President Bush on Tuesday asking for help. He supported Washington's policy of non-interference in the Iraqi civil war.



First family's pride: President and Barbara Bush with one of their grandchildren, Elise LeBlond, taking part in an all-star tribute, organised by CBS Television, at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, to honour the American forces who took part in the Gulf war

BREAD CONVOY

Mountain people turn out to help victims

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISKILVEREN

THE people of the town of Cizre have little enough to spare but the local population of the poorest part of Turkey is organising the relief for the Kurdish exodus from northern Iraq. "We are the same people, they are part of us," said one volunteer yesterday as he helped to load a lorry with 2,000 loaves of bread made overnight at the local bakery.

At the same time villagers accused the government and the military who control this part of the Turkish southeast of sitting on their hands while hundreds of thousands of Iraqi Kurds suffer in rudimentary camps on the border. The government fears a mass influx of Kurds in a region which already knows Kurdish separatist violence. There may be a worse problem if they are seen to be prolonging the suffering of people with whom the local population is in such obvious sympathy.

The convoy of bread, along with a load of old clothes, scraps of foam mattresses and plastic water vessels set out yesterday from Cizre across the Tigris river for the mountain village of Iskilveren. There local people were already arguing with the military authorities that supplies intended for the refugees were not getting through. Sacks of bread, the top loaves sodden with rain, were, they said, still there from the previous day. The villagers won permission to take the food themselves

and set off on foot up the mountainside carrying the bread, cartons of biscuits and tins of white cheese.

Coming down the mountain were yet more refugees from Iraq. On several occasions soldiers fired continuous rounds of ammunition into the air, which echoed in the mountain valley along with the rattle from a fierce hailstorm. The gunfire, said one visibly tense officer, was to keep the bread queues in order. However those already in the camps said they had received similar warnings as they approached Turkey, as well as loudspeaker messages broadcast from helicopters.

A Turkish government spokesman had previously denied that troops were firing warning shots to deter more refugees.

The soldiers guarding the refugees were obviously moved by their plight but are awaiting further orders. It is spring in the Tigris valley and the river has taken on almost the colour of blood from the clay banks being washed away. In the mountains, people are clustered in improvised tents made from blankets, and although they are being rained upon, drinking water is a problem; there is one nearby mountain spring, but it cannot meet the demand.

One refugee, an engineer from Dahuk with two children both below the age of two, says he has to wait three hours just to fill a canteen. Two Turkish

doctors who made the trip up the mountainside were dispensing medicine. Almost all the children are suffering some effects from exposure to the elements. One family says it has buried three children in the camp's improvised graveyard. Between 40 and 60 children are said not to have survived the trip.

The face of one boy about ten years old was totally disfigured by burns from phosphorous bombs. He, along with a woman with a broken leg, was hoping for the helicopter that would take him to hospital. Like almost all the refugees, he had walked for two days and two nights from the road on the Iraqi side of the border.

Iskilveren, with its estimated 25,000 people, is just one of the makeshift camps along that border. Turkish Kurds observing the plight of their brethren blame the victorious allies in the Gulf war for their fate. Even larger, than Iskilveren, they say, is the nearby camp of Ortasu.

The refugees themselves hope they will be taken to proper reception centres and then forwarded to some of the more prosperous countries who fought against Iraq.

Today, delegations from political parties in Turkey are scheduled to visit the camps and will inevitably increase pressure on the government to press for a more humane solution.

SECURITY COUNCIL

UK tries to allay Kremlin doubts

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE five permanent members of the United Nations security council were working yesterday on a draft resolution condemning Iraq's repression of the Kurds and calling for it to co-operate with cross-border aid efforts. Diplomatic sources said the resolution could be adopted by the full council later in the day, although the Soviet Union and China were "hesitant".

The resolution would also back an appeal for large-scale

Señor Pérez de Cuéllar to send a team to report on their plight.

Britain and the United States joined France in its attempt to help the Kurds at a meeting of the five powers on Wednesday night. But diplomats said the three Western powers were trying to convince the other two veto-bearing permanent members of the council — the Soviet Union and China — to agree before seeking support from the full council.

France originally wanted the council to condemn Iraq's suppression of the Kurds and other rebellious groups and to demand that Baghdad begin talks to secure their rights. "It is essential that the Kurds' just claim for respect of their identity within Iraq be fully recognised," Jean-Marc Rochereau de la Sablière, the French chargé d'affaires, told the security council.

But Britain has tried to refocus attention on the humanitarian needs of the Kurds to overcome Soviet and Chinese objections.

In discussions among the five powers, the Soviet and Chinese ambassadors argued that the plight of the Kurds was a domestic Iraqi problem over which the United Nations had no jurisdiction. But Western diplomats argued that Turkey's complaint that Iraq was driving people across the border and shelling its territory turned the Kurds' plight into an international incident.



Pérez de Cuéllar: to be appealing for aid

humanitarian aid that Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN secretary-general, is expected to make on Monday, after consulting the eight United Nations agencies involved.

Turkey, which has complained that Iraq's repression of the Kurds jeopardises international peace, circulated its own draft resolution demanding that Iraq end its atrocities against civilians and asking

BUSH STANCE

America doubt chemic claim

FROM SUSAN ELLIC IN WASHINGTON

AS THE United Nations pares to strip Iraq of a biological weapon of a permanent ceasefire, questions in Washington about P. Saddam Hussein's use of arms against the Kurds and Shia Muslims.

The United States acted cautiously to from Kurdish groups troops used chemicals ing sulphuric acid, them. The administration's lack of confirmation explains in part a American public has supported Mr Bush's stance to intervene on the Kurds facing attacks Saddam's helicopters, the media have stepped criticism over the past

Last month, the said it was unable to charges by the rebels forces used napalm in the north and south, where pro-Baghdad have since gained all key cities. So administration has only that Iraqi sold used phosphorous against the rebels.

"We do not know anything else," a White spokesman said yesterday. "We are not saying it have not used chemicals, but we have other than second reports."

In painting Saddam evil figure to win support for the war effort White House made a confirmed chemical on Kurds by Baghdad the Iran-Iraq war. B American public has little inclination to pin administration to go defence of the Kurds reports of the exodus refugees from northern

Critics of President decision not to intervene Iraq's internal conflict shooting down helicopters do not expect a public opinion survey vision footage emerged widespread atrocities the rebels, on the scale Chinese clampdown a pro-democracy student, onstrators in Tians Square in 1989.

The Kurds appear to lost their best chance winning public support exaggerating their claim have seized control of Kirkuk. The American public therefore appears to be skeptical about the reports the Kurds, especially since administration has declined confirm them.

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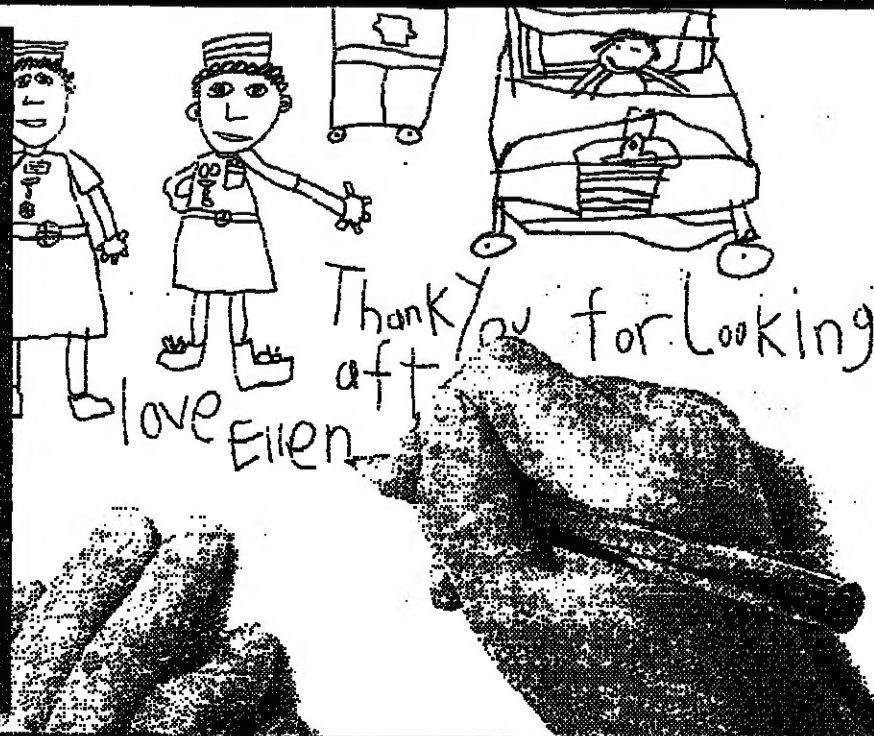
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the Bahr" existing boundaries would be included in the agreement. It was returned to the islands question. The long-standing Iraqi claims on the islands question, with the current stability in the area, will probably be decided by the UN, according to a UN spokesman. The UN is also addressing the security of the oil fields in Iraq. Yet to it in the

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the American press has reacted with anger to the administration's failure to intervene in the Iraqi suppression of the Kurdish rebellion. Yesterday's Washington Times denounced "Where is Bush?" as a scathing report by David Saffire in The New York Times was labelled "Bush's Bay of Pigs". Our betrayal is a human tragedy and an ethical disaster, thundered The Wall Street Journal. The White House is pursuing "an almost vicious realpolitik", and McGraw-Hill, veteran columnist of The Washington Post, called American policy "shameful". Last week a senior White House official told the magazine that "the pressure for the US to intervene [in Iraq] is coming from the columnists".

He said that it could be red. He was wrong. It-line reports and television pictures lent weight to the ministers' outrage and rest of the media has picked up the cry. The administration has supporters, however. Editorial writers of New York Times and Los Angeles Times broadly backed its case, arguing that intervention would cause more harm than it solved. It is not only in the United States that there is pressure to help the Kurds. The Kurds have provoked colists' criticisms. How most European politicians and pundits are cautious. "The Kurdish tragedy starts to move said the front page of Friday's La Libre que. editorial in yesterday's Irish Times commended the West's inaction

MPs want backing for rebels but oppose military intervention

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ALTHOUGH MPs from all sides have been pressing for action to assist Kurds against President Saddam's regime, guarantees to the United States and its allies of being military action are not enough.

While most who have been voicing calls for UN and military action to help the Kurds, they are opposed to offering military assistance, said the Americans and allies should take effective action against Saddam's if they interfered with humanitarian relief.

Campbell-Savours, MP for Workington, one in arguing that there is a basis for America to the UN for the right to down helicopter gunships where they attacked.

They could do so on the basis that they were de-

AS THE UN ceasefire," he said. He and his colleagues, however, want any of a permanent land. Washington said that America and the UN should call for a ceasefire, and that economic sanctions should remain in place until the world community was satisfied it was not killing its civilian population.

David Howell, the chairman of the foreign affairs select committee, said America should have intervened militarily three weeks ago. Washington and its allies should stop the withdrawal of troops from the region, and postpone the thanksgiving service, to ensure Iraq's complete compliance with a tough ceasefire. The Americans

should insist on reparations for action against the Kurds and Kurds and maintain military pressure on Iraq.

David Owen, the former foreign secretary, said: "The US, Britain and France should put their military resources behind the UN humanitarian operations. They could easily get food and medical aid to the affected areas." He doubted whether the United States and its Western allies could take further military action and enter Baghdad. "That was an option we should have taken. I do not think we can do it now."

However, Dr Owen said that America, Britain and France should be able to take military action if Iraq interfered with UN relief operations, should exercise their veto power at the United Nations Security Council to ensure that economic sanctions remained in force while Saddam stays in power, and insist that he stands trial for war crimes.

George Robertson, a Labour foreign affairs spokesman, said he did not want America to take military action. It would be very unlikely that the UN would do anything militarily as, in his view, its charter prohibited the agency from interfering in matters that were within the domestic jurisdiction of a state.

Iraq's treatment of its civilian population should be one of the conditions of a full ceasefire, and that economic sanctions should remain in place until the world community was satisfied it was not killing its civilian population.

David Howell, the chairman of the foreign affairs select committee, said America should have intervened militarily three weeks ago. Washington and its allies should stop the withdrawal of troops from the region, and postpone the thanksgiving service, to ensure Iraq's complete compliance with a tough ceasefire. The Americans

to the Soviet Union's failure to intervene in Vietnam when the Nazis crushed the Warsaw uprising in 1944. The European Community reacted quickly but modestly; it gave £3.5 million in aid to international organisations and promised to discuss further support at next Monday's summit of community leaders.

The German foreign ministry yesterday called in Mullahfar Abdulla Amin, the Iraqi ambassador in Bonn, to protest about his government's treatment of its Kurdish community. Germany urged Iraq to observe human rights for all ethnic and religious groups and to recognise the right of autonomy for the Kurdish people.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, also sent a second letter to the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, asking them to include unlimited protection for the minority rights of the Kurds in the ceasefire resolution.

Karsten Voigt, the opposition Social Democrat spokesman on foreign affairs, called for the Kurdish question to be included in a future peace order for the region, so that the community could be guaranteed the right of self-determination.

The right-wing Bild newspaper wondered what had happened to the peace demonstrators who had taken to the streets before the Gulf war. "Who is demonstrating for the Kurds, who is helping them?"

Sympathy in France for the Kurds has always been greater than in other European countries. French commentators also acknowledge, however, that the government's policy towards the Kurds has often been ambiguous because Paris has found it difficult to reconcile its concern with respect for the territorial integrity of Iraq.

Roland Dumas, the foreign minister, told the National Assembly that the government's attempt to awaken the conscience of the world to events in northern Iraq is only the latest in a series of Gallic demarches to help ease the plight of the Kurds.



Cry for help: a Kurdish protestor outside the Iraqi embassy in London yesterday

EMBASSY PROTEST

West is urged to act

By ALICE THOMSON

FORTY Kurdish men and women went on hunger strike outside the American embassy in London yesterday to highlight the plight of their people fleeing from President Saddam Hussein's forces in Iraq. They have vowed to continue until the West takes action to protect up to one million Kurds.

The hunger strikers, surrounded by friends and relatives, huddled in the wind and rain opposite the embassy in Grosvenor Square. "The Kurdish people who are fleeing face far worse conditions than these," said Farhad Alaskin, aged 24. "They are starving and freezing to death and we must show our solidarity with them. We will carry on to the death if necessary."

They handed in two letters to the embassy addressed to President Bush and the ambassador. About 30 demonstrators went on to protest outside the Iraqi embassy. Salar Bapir, aged 26, a spokesman for the group, said: "We demand they stop the genocide our people are facing in the mountains under constant bombardment and with temperatures below zero."

AID PLEA

Relief agencies put onus on UN

By ROBIN YOUNG

BRITISH aid agencies reaffirmed yesterday that they will be powerless to help millions of Kurds fleeing Iraq unless the United Nations assumes responsibility for the relief operation.

The Save the Children Fund, which has sent two convoys of emergency relief supplies to the civilian population in Baghdad, yesterday sent its Middle East director, Martin Griffiths, to Turkey. A spokesman said: "We hope to be in a position to have a team in Kurdistan imminently, but we are likely to be the only British agency actually there."

Oxfam yesterday reiterated an offer to empty its emergency stores to aid the Kurds. The organisation has immediately available 20,000 blankets, 4,000 shelters with room for ten people, plastic sheeting and water equipment. The package, worth £1.2 million, was first offered to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the Red Cross and the Red Crescent on Wednesday, but without response.

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Richard Morrison

Make it the ColiGarden

The Royal Opera House seems permanently under siege. Its finances totter towards disaster, even as it eats up £15 million of annual public subsidy and pushes its top ticket prices over £100. It makes strenuous efforts to raise corporate sponsorship, then some of its most loyal supporters among the captains of industry vent wounding opinions about it in print.

To cut costs, Jeremy Isaacs, the general director, makes some staff redundant, then suffers the indignity of being handed a petition, including the signatures of Paul Findlay, the ROH's own opera director, and Jeffrey Tate, principal conductor, demanding the reinstatement of the press director. A minor incident, perhaps, but it typifies the feeling of helplessness that the once-bullish Mr Isaacs exudes. And the proposed extension of backstage facilities has run into so many planning problems that the closure of the ROH for rebuilding has been postponed until 1995 or 1996.

If the Royal Opera's productions were scintillating, audiences and critics would feel happier defending the company's financial record. There might even be a lobby agitating to give it the kind of super-subsidy — two or three times that of Covent Garden — that Milan, Munich, Vienna and Paris bestow on their opera houses. But the critical reaction to a parade of borrowed or resuscitated productions has been hostile.

Meanwhile, the departure soon of Peter Jonas from English National Opera to run Munich's opera house has led to renewed comparisons of Covent Garden with the Coliseum.

The ENO also has severe money problems — Mr Jonas's touching begging-bowl appearances on the stage apparently do little to stem its rising deficit — but ENO has shown a spirit of adventure, stuck to clear artistic policies, marketed aggressively and nurtured new musical and directorial talents.

ENO fits happily into the modern operatic world. This world accepts that the operatic experience can easily encompass famous tenors belting out "Nessun Dorma" in huge arenas and an interpretation of Don Giovanni as a New York drug-pusher (the education offered by BBC 2 on Easter Monday). Anything goes, in other words, provided it is done with panache. But Covent Garden has forgotten what panache is. Nor will it rediscover that quality until somebody slices through the Gordian knot that the ROH management has made of its problems.

What does this involve? First, an acknowledgement that since the amount of public subsidy devoted to opera is not going to increase substantially, and since money for the excellent regional opera companies must not be cut, there is no likelihood that Covent Garden or ENO will ever be funded at a level anywhere near that of Vienna or Munich. As long as these theatres struggle to give London around 700 opera and ballet performances a year, they will be locked into a spiral of shoddiness. What Mr Jonas has

accomplished so brilliantly at ENO has been more a spiral-defying sleight-of-hand than a permanent improvement in the company's wellbeing.

But does London need 700 performances a year? Milan, a financial opera city, makes do with about 125. And now that surtitles are such an accepted feature in the opera house, is there any justification for maintaining a company such as ENO, all of whose works are sung in English? Moreover, since the Coliseum has the best ballet stage in London, why is it monopolised by an opera company for 11 months of the year, while the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet exist in mutual acrimony at Covent Garden?

The way forward should be apparent. If the Royal Opera edges towards the conclusion that it makes sense to nurture an ensemble of young, relatively inexperienced British singers, and if ENO decides that it should use surtitles and give its patrons the benefit of Italian vowel-sounds in Italian music, the two companies will inevitably become less and less distinguishable.

So perhaps they should become one company, based at Covent Garden. Then the Coliseum (which, in any case, is leased to ENO only until 1996) could become the home of the Royal Ballet and a receiving house for the other great dance companies of the world.

Some will say it would be ludicrous deliberately to cut opera provision in London after 45 years of painstaking building it up. But drastic cuts are already being made, in terms of rehearsal time, new productions, budgets and regular appearances by internationally renowned singers and conductors.

Which is more important, quality or quantity? The British director Graham Vick told *The Times* he was given a budget of £750,000 to stage Kurt Weill's *Mahagonny* in Florence last summer, compared with a £65,000 budget to stage Stephen Oliver's new opera *Timon of Athens* at the Coliseum.

If a merger is unpalatable, the ROH management should at least regard the 1995 closure of Covent Garden as an opportunity to sweep away all the costly inflexibilities of the present company. London has so many superb freelance musicians and singers that no opera company need shackles itself to a permanent salaried orchestra and chorus. Furthermore, all opera written before 1850 ought to be performed on period instruments: that is what the public increasingly expects (and Glyndebourne triumphantly provides). This implies recruiting different players for different repertoires. Nor should present-day composers feel compelled — as many do when commissioned to write a new opera — to use the house orchestra. The death of good new opera must partly be attributed to the rigidities of the opera house.

But here we stray into a serious artistic discussion that is pointless until somebody grasps the nettle of radical reform in the opera house. Glück did it in the 18th century, Wagner in the 19th. For the 20th, time is fast running out.

...and moreover

JOE JOSEPH

I don't mean to gloat or to embarrass those theatre impresarios and Arts Council professionals who are paid heaps to do this sort of thing, but I think I may have hit upon a cure for the West End's headaches.

On Sunday, actors, directors and set designers will try to keep up pretences when they dish out the Olivier Awards to each other at the National Theatre. But the smiles will not be able to hide the spreading sickness. Bernard Levin, on this very page, wrote recently: "At least nineteen plays out of twenty in the London theatre at any given time should, and in a perfect world would, be classified as rubbish... not to say garbage, offal, trash, bilge and Not Wanted On Voyage."

Bernard was, for some reason, pulling his punches that day. But flick through any recent newspaper and the lament is everywhere: the same plays today are awful, there is nobody to take over the quill from Tim Rice, only a fool would prefer to sit through two acts with only a warm gin and tonic in between than to spend the evening counting all the dots on his TV screen. *The Sunday Telegraph*, usually so chirpy, has not seen the theatre in such a mess "since the Puritans ordered the suppression of players in 1642".

And it's not just the West End. The artistic directors of the Chichester Festival Theatre and the Bristol Old Vic have just resigned. The Almeida in Isling-

ton, England's most famous fringe theatre, is closing.

Theatre bigwigs (Andrew Lloyd Webber at least) long ago learned the wisdom of the Hollywood adage, "If you have a message, send it Western Union". If the West End is ready to pick up another tip from the poolsheds of Los Angeles, it need only look at the box-office evidence to see that it is not original screenplays that draw cinema audiences by the million, but sequels of established hits. The goldmines are *Godfather III*, *Diehard II*, *Rocky XVII*.

So if the West End is ready to listen to advice, you can start planning your evenings around a retextured Shaftesbury Avenue schedule. Here is how things stand as we go to press. Samuel Beckett's timeless masterpiece, *Still Waiting for Godot*, and *Extra Time* (his extended version of *Endgame*) are likely to steal the thunder of the modern drama offerings in the coming season. But there will be more than enough to suit all tastes. Look forward to the curtain rising on: *The Bald Prima Donna Meets the Barber of Seville* — Ionesco re-establishes himself among the masters of cutting humour.

A Doll's House: *The Nightmare Continues* — chilling suspense from Ibsen, the King of Horror. And *The Birthday Party*: Another Year, Another Story.

Realising that if there is one thing more dramatic than un-

What is now going on in Iraq bears a close resemblance to what happened in Hungary in 1956. In both cases the West, led by America, encouraged people to rise up against their oppressors and then stood by while the oppressors crushed them.

In both cases, the theatre of the United Nations was used to lend some decorum to the betrayal. In 1956 an American-backed draft resolution calling for a Soviet withdrawal from Hungary was vetoed by the Soviet Union in the Security Council. The Eisenhower administration then claimed that it had tried to help Hungary, and that the UN, "paralysed by the Soviet veto", had failed it.

Over Iraq, there is unity in the Security Council, but it is unity in favour of letting Saddam get on with crushing all the rebel forces. Resolution 687, carried by the Security Council on Wednesday, fails even to mention the Kurds, whose last strongholds were falling as the resolution was being carried.

The resolution aims at depriving Iraq of "weapons of mass destruction", but Saddam can destroy the Kurds with conventional weapons, and is doing so. The betrayal of the rebels to the tyrant in Baghdad is even more shameful than was the betrayal of the Hungarians. The Eisenhower government was recklessly irresponsible in its rhetoric about "pushing back the Iron Curtain", but its failure to follow up that rhetoric was understandable, since doing so might well have led to a third world war. In the case of Iraq, no commensurate risk is involved. The tyrant crushing the Kurds is a beaten tyrant. He is able to crush them only because he has the tacit permission of those who have beaten him.

It is suggested that it was politically and/or militarily impossible to help the Kurds and Shias. It is simply not possible; the allies simply decided not to. Militarily, the allies, with complete control of Iraqi air space, could have ordered Saddam Hussein's forces to stay out of, or withdraw from, the territories which had rebelled. Saddam was in no position to ignore such an order.

Politically, the Security Council could have ordered free elections throughout Iraq, under UN supervision, and prohibited Saddam from interfering. It is argued that anything of this kind would constitute "intervention in Iraq's

internal affairs", and is therefore unthinkable. It is really quite thinkable: it was done after the defeat of the German and Japanese tyrannies at the end of the second world war, and it worked rather well. A democratic Iraq — the first democracy in the Arab world — was a possibility after Saddam's defeat. The allies and the UN preferred to stick with Saddam.

The allied thinking that has led to the destruction of the Kurdish and Shia rebels is the same thinking that led to the invasion of Kuwait. This is the doctrine, dear to the State Department and the Foreign Office, that a strong Iraq is in the interests of the West. Thus the West cultivated and

armed Saddam and encouraged him to believe that he could literally get away with murder. In Kuwait, he found, finally, that he could not get away with it, yet now he can treat his Iraqi subjects any way he likes, with Western collusion and the acquiescence of the UN. The UN secretary-general, Javier Pérez de Cuellar, has even argued that the allies are guilty of *too much* intervention. The Kurds will hardly agree.

The received doctrine — though one that is hardly ever explicitly formulated — is that unless the military ruler of Iraq has a free hand to crush Iraq's "minorities" (who actually constitute a majority), Iraq will break up. This would

alter the balance of power in the region in undesirable ways, notably by expanding the power of Iran. The Western officials who hold this view wish the Iraqi army would get itself a leader other than Saddam, if only for appearances' sake. But if it has to be Saddam, well, better that he should crush the rebels than that Iraq should be allowed to break up.

Realpolitik, when it attains really repulsive proportions, as in this case, often turns out to be silly. The "either/or" that is posited — either a free hand for Saddam Hussein or the break-up of Iraq — is a false dichotomy. If the allies had restrained Saddam as they could and should have done, they would have been in a

position to insist on the preservation of the territorial integrity of Iraq under a post-Saddam government. The Kurdish and Shia people — once dependent on al protection — would be in position to insist on access against the will of the allies.

In any case, there is no reason to suppose these people are bent on secession, if alternative is a reasonable demand of local self-government proportionate say in national affairs. But I fear that the State Department and the Office of Realpolitik that has the destruction of the Kurdish Shia rebels actually prefers idea of a military strong putting down "minorities" more civilised arrangements might "weaken Iraq".

The logic which today Saddam back in the die would have Hitler in power at the of the second world war, for sake of "a strong Germany" the balance of power. And was indeed such a school thought. The difference is the time it has prevailed.

President Bush may not return to the earlier policy of supporting Saddam. The spectre of the defeated tyrant mass Iraqis while the victorious look on must be a profound repulsive to many Americans. American public takes a moral view of foreign policy the European democracies. I not be easy to explain to a which saw Saddam's treatment Kuwait as morally outrageous why his treatment of the Kurds acceptable.

The vast exodus of Kurds Iraq bears stark witness to that Saddam is the enemy of people. Letting him loose as them was a crime against humanity. The Kurdish refugees testimony against the Bush administration's policy. This will tarnish Bush's great victory, considerations sometimes abrupt changes in policy, to the advice of the diplomats of realpolitik. I this will prove to be so in the — and Mr Bush's reference new look" at Iraq this week be a hint of radical change come. But it will come too I save the hundreds of thousands perhaps millions, of Iraqi ci who are already victims of era realpolitik.

Escape by any means: Kurdish victims of Western power politics head for Turkey

Some may object but might is right

Philip Howard calls up his auxiliaries to put a grammatical confusion to flight

Might can sometimes be right. It is grammatically right in sentences referring to past possibilities that did not happen. But "might" is the forgotten word in the hot-air industries of modern journalism and public relations on the radio and television. People use may, where might would have been right. So they end up writing nonsense. For example: "The Scud missile may have caused heavy casualties, if it had not been intercepted." But it was intercepted, and there were no casualties. "Schoenberg may never have gone atonal but for the break-up of his marriage." But he did definitely go atonal, poor sap. Might. "I am grateful for his intervention, without which they may have remained in the refugee camp indefinitely." But they have got out of the refugee camp. No may about it. Might. "If President Galtieri had not invaded, then

eventually the islands may have fallen into their lap." But they haven't, and there is no prospect of their doing so in the foreseeable future. No may about the matter it. Might.

May and might are known in the trade of modern grammarians as modal auxiliaries, that is, little bricks that modify the mood of a verb. English is notably rich in them: can, could, may, might, must, need to, have to, ought to, should, will, would, shall. By building precisely with our modal auxiliaries, English-users can express a very wide range of possibility, permission, ability, prediction, obligation, compulsion, velocity, and other moods. He might have been captured by the Iraqis — but he wasn't. He may have been captured by the Iraqis — it is possible.

The principal meanings of the pair of modal auxiliaries, may and might, are possibility, permission,

and wishing. May all your problems be grammatical! Might expresses a more remote possibility than may, but there is some overlap. In the following sentence, either modal auxiliary will do, and there is only a tiny difference in meaning: I may/might have met her, but I can't remember.

The confusion arises between may and might when we are talking about the past. If at the time of writing or speaking about the past, the facts are still unknown, either may or might will do, and they mean almost the same. Graham Greene: "For all we knew we were both bastards, although of course there might have been a ceremony." Evelyn Waugh: "As they all wore so many different clothes of identical the same kind, there may have been several more or several less." However, if there is no longer uncertainty about the past event, or the matter was never put to the

test, and it did not happen, might is right, and may is misleading, and irritating, even erroneous: A Pentagon spokesman said that if a fire break had been constructed, the "difficult problems which eventually came about may have been avoided".

Here is Evelyn Waugh, getting his might right: "If that had come ten days ago my whole life might have been different." If that sentence were being written today in a newspaper, or uttered on a chat show, it would probably come out as: "My whole life may have been different."

What can we deduce from the modern confusion between may and might referring to the past? That the young don't learn any grammar any more, or that English has gone down the plug-hole? Poppycock. The cure for imagining that there was some golden age of grammar is to read and note the wide variations of grammatical

practice in even the best writ the past.

A vastly wider range of writing, being published being publicly broadcast, than ever before. This is both for the language anxiety, though not for the that make the paper. In scramble, we are not making use of the great variety afford the modal auxiliaries of Engl we need to continue to mak fine distinction between ma might in the past tense, we remember might, or find other way of making the distinction. Otherwise the may/ distinction may fade away. I happened to other old gram cal forms in English, such a dual number we once used to two of something, and all our case endings. English vived, and flourished, and just right for the purposes of new users.

Our man within

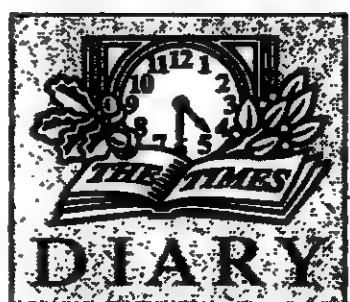
Two fascinating documents concerning Graham Greene's newspaper career have emerged from *The Times* archives. His 1925 application form for a job "sub-editing and leader writing" and his letter of resignation four years later. Both are in his famous small, fastidious hand, although curiously someone has scrawled across the application form "Roman Catholic" (subsequently crossed out).

In the resignation letter, Greene wrote: "My publisher, Heinemann, has offered me £550 a year for two years in advance of royalties on my next books if I will do nothing else but write and as I feel that my chief ambition lies in that direction, I have decided to accept the offer." This was far more than Greene was earning at *The Times*, although by 1929 his salary had risen to a not inconsiderable 10 guineas a week.

Greene went on: "There is of course a risk, but as my present book has earned nearly £800 and has only just been published in America, I think that the risk is not too great." The book was *The Man Within*, his first novel, which according to Leslie Smith, a contemporary on *The Times*, was written largely in room 20 of the paper's Printing House Square offices. "He actually began his career as a novelist in that room."

Greene's rise on the paper was swift. "He learned quickly and is now one of our best sub-editors," wrote George Anderson, the senior sub, in March 1929. Greene took over the court page during the holiday of its regular editor ("a deadly dull job with heaps of scope for blunders," he wrote to his mother) and also stood in for the letters editor, a post which was promised him in time.

He clearly enjoyed his years on



The Times. In his resignation letter he wrote: "It will be a great relief for me to leave and I hope that I may be able to retain some small connection with the paper by means of court page articles. Mr Bruinwell has been kind enough to suggest that I should occasionally try my hand at light leaders. Elsewhere, Greene wrote of the ideal arrangement, under which



the paper employed him during his "hours of fatigue", from 4pm to midnight, enabling him to do his own work in the morning when "still fresh".

The Times did not let its rising star go lightly: he was summoned to see the editor, Geoffrey Daw-

son. "He said he understood that I had written a novel and he congratulated me on its success," wrote Greene. "His wife had demanded a copy from his circulating library. *The Times*, he assured me, would have no objection if I continued to write novels in my spare time." But it was to no avail, and Dawson's irritation at losing so promising a member of staff was obvious. If Greene's mind was really made up, Dawson told him, it was "a rash and unwise decision".

Labour members of Humberston county council are off for a weekend at the seaside later this month. While Tory councillors are holding their annual meeting in a room-furnished room in the county hall at Beverley, the ruling Labour group has moved its gathering to the *Expanse Hotel* at Bridlington, at a cost to the council estimated at £5,000. The main subject on the agenda, according to council leader Terry Geraghty, will be cost-cutting measures to keep down the poll tax.

Lucky star

A rare glimpse into Philip Larkin's very private life will be offered today when his secretary breaks her silence for the first time since his death five years ago. On his instructions, 25 volumes of his diaries were shredded by his companion, Monica Jones, and his secretary, Betty MacKintosh, within hours of his death. Neither has spoken about the affair since, but MacKintosh has finally agreed to a live interview on BBC's Radio 2.

Some of Larkin's literary executors are critical of the shredding. Andrew Motion has prevented the fulfilment of another of Larkin's wishes: that all his other unpublished material should be destroyed. The shredded diaries, he says, would have been a fascinating source and were "a log of banal feelings against himself

and the world". Whether Mr Larkin is prepared to shed any light on their content remains to be seen; he consented to the view only because the prods Margaret Garbett, was one of few journalists ever to get close to Larkin. He agreed to be interviewed by her after she discovered they had the same birthday.

Vicious circle

Such is the fame of master forger Tom Keating that first sales of Keating's have started to appear in salerooms. Ever since a 15 Keating version of Van Gogh's *Sunflowers* was sold for £8,000 in 1981, Bonham's, the auction house which is organising a Keating's later this year, has been besieged with spurious Keatings. The forgeries come in seven guises: a fake of a Keating fals an old master, a forgery of one Keating's own individual landscapes, or even pictures that do nothing like Keating's own work but with his initials in the bottom corner. "Good painters imitate nature, bad ones copy it up wrote Cervantes. Very bad on imitate the imitators, he might have added.

● The Archbishop of York, John Habgood, has set up a working party to investigate the *Tenage Ninjas* Twitter phenomenon according to an article reproduced in various parish magazines Yorkshire. The working party said to be "particularly disturbed by the apparent effect of the cu upon clergy". The more ale might have smelt something fish from the references to the Feast of St Tortoisia, but so many his fallen for the spoof that th archbishop's office has had to issue an official denial. "This is the kin of juvenile humor that all to frequently mark Christian publications," said a spokesman, who do not elaborate.

...and moreover

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FITTING CAP

...and moreover

PHILIP HOWARD

...and moreover

PHILIP HOWARD

...and moreover



ANKARA ON TRIAL

Turkey relents and allows the UN international relief agencies to act in Iraq. Ankara will be responsible for the protection of refugees from exposure and starvation. Iran, so often seen as inward-looking, has apparently thrown open its doors to both Shia Muslims and Kurds. But it is not a member of the EC, professing values - turns its back and even its doors to the Kurds.

There is no doubt where the original blame for the latest tragedy in the history of the Kurds lies: with President Saddam Hussein, who, far from being humbled by his defeat in the Gulf war, could not wait to return to the defenceless civilians at the hands of the Iraqi army.

Instead, world attention is focused on the different reaction of the Iranian authorities to the appalling situation of the Kurds. It is a stark contrast to the response of the Iraqi army, which has been described as a "march of death".

The Kurds are a people of a million refugees, who speak of a million horrors. They are a people who have been driven out of their homes and are now living in the mountains of northern Iraq, where they are being starved and killed.

ILL-FITTING CAP

Heseltine's decision this week to cap the 14 "overspending" local authorities has restarted a controversy that the government had hoped to end. The fault is in the Treasury's. Try as it may, the government still finds it impossible to increase the accountability of local government.

Capping is a blunder which repeats the entire purpose of those to increase the accountability of local government. That Mr Heseltine feels obliged to perpetuate this nonsensical policy for his own much-trumpeted programme, is a decision that does not do much. A small minority of local authorities are affected. In most of them, few will notice the impact of the cap on their poll tax bills. In only three of the 14 capped authorities will the cap save as much as £20 a year. In the 14, the full panoply of the law has been brought to bear to save £7 each. This compares with the £100 million in the Budget will save them. If the cap is confirmed - the councils will be forced to appeal - the total amount to £50 million a year, or per cent of local spending.

POLITICAL ARITHMETIC

It can claim to be a proper branch of statistics, but the political arithmetic of demographics has often been a mere quarry for political argument. In Britain, demographics has usually been left alone by politicians, though Lord Joseph once burnt it with it. So what could be more than the decennial census which is due on April 21?

That should feel the heat of accountability on their necks have been offered relief. There are four criteria for Mr Heseltine's capping, on which basis blame for "overspending" must be judged. One reads: "Any increase of more than 7 per cent will be considered an excessive increase if it gives rise to a budget of over 5 per cent above the Standard Spending Assessment." This may make sense to civil servants at the environment department but will make none on the local hustings next month.

The majority of those councils selected for capping were Labour controlled, in particular those identified with the residue of the far left. Lambeth thus figures at the top of the list. But a handful, three, of Tory councils are also included to avoid any suggestion that the exercise is wholly cynical.

In the long term capping represents a fundamental threat to accountability. This year's local budgets were set before the Chancellor introduced his relief scheme. Fear of high poll tax may have caused some councils to keep their spending down this year. Next year's poll tax will start from a much lower base. Left uncapped, councils might feel free to raise the poll tax and spend more. With the Treasury as determined as ever to prevent this, the government's reaction will be to charge cap more councils, and to do so more fiercely. Central government will be ever more saddled with responsibility for local spending levels.

"To extend the cap" a writer in *The Times* said in May 1990 "increases the risk of legal challenge. Furthermore to design such a system effectively would negate accountability and be an act of centralised political power outside our experience. On these grounds alone it should be resisted." Wise words, written by the then Tory backbencher, Michael Heseltine. If next year he has to eat them, it will be because this year he has pandered to his party and Treasury prejudice by carrying on capping.

Demographic catastrophists are more usually (but rarely more accurately) to be found expounding the dire consequences of over-population. But catastrophism may also feed on the ethnic or religious composition of the population. Northern Ireland used to echo to Protestant warnings of what would happen when the high Catholic birthrate enabled the minority to become a majority. No more has been heard from these prophets since the Catholic birthrate began to approach the Protestant one.

Birthrates fluctuate, as do migration rates. In Israel, Soviet Jewish immigration has falsified the once commonplace prediction that Arabs would soon outnumber Jews. In Britain, the Census Publication Unit (there is such a thing: the census costs £135 million) claims proudly that "the census of today will be the history of tomorrow." Yet history is only yesterday's politics. Sir William Petty, the 17th-century statistician who created modern demography, called his new science "political arithmetic". Though unintentional, the ambiguity of Petty's term was apposite. Demography may be arithmetical in form, but it is the stuff of politics.

World's response to agony of the Kurdish refugees

From Mr F. W. J. Whetstone

Sir, Can anyone feel other than the strongest possible disgust at the sight, on the television news, of the troops of Turkey, a Nato member and an applicant for EC membership, holding back at gunpoint the Kurds fleeing from Saddam Hussein's vengeance and thus condemning them to death by cold, starvation or the bullet?

The Foreign Office, as usual, washes his hands and only one voice (report, April 4) called for determined action to provide shelter, food and warmth; but alas, she is no longer able to command.

The time for military intervention is past, if it ever existed, but the time for massive humanitarian aid is now, and those who claim higher standards than those of Saddam Hussein should prove it by persuading Turkey to accept the massive aid necessary to deal with this tragedy.

For only then will we be able to see that it is the Turkey of the ambassador in London's plea on television for help, not the Turkey of the Armenian massacres, which is our ally.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS WHETSTONE,
Bessets Manor, Hatfield, Sussex.
April 4.

From the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats
Sir, Why does international opinion respond so differently to the Kurds and the Palestinians? Why is a homeland for the Palestinians accepted and a homeland for the Kurds not? The Kurds are a people who have consistently criticised Israel for its actions in the West Bank and Gaza and reluctance to contemplate a settlement which would involve giving up the West Bank and Gaza to create a Palestinian homeland. I have to say that if Israel had taken action against the Palestinians a hundredth as savage as Saddam Hussein has taken against the Kurds there would have been international uproar.

It has also to be said that Arafat aligns himself with Saddam in the knowledge of the obscene slaughter, by chemical bombs, of 5,000 unarmed Kurds in Halabja on his orders three years ago. A comprehensive Middle East settlement must include a homeland for the Palestinians, coupled with absolute safeguards for Israel but it must also, in my view, include a

homeland for the Kurds. That this will require some adjustment by Iraq, Iran and Turkey seems a small and necessary price to give these persecuted people peace and dignity.

For now, may I add my voice to those who wish the European Community to compensate Turkey for making land immediately available to the refugees and urge the coalition forces to make it clear to Saddam that further pursuit of these refugees will be repelled by force? We did not go into the Gulf to uphold international order to end up watching innocent children die barefoot in the snow.

Yours faithfully,
RUSSELL JOHNSTON (Spokesman on the European Community and East-West relations),
House of Commons.
April 4.

From Professor Geoffrey Lee Williams
Sir, David Owen (April 4) is palpably right to call for Saddam Hussein to stand trial for war crimes under the 1949 Geneva Conventions. This desperate and deviant regime has turned upon its minorities with a vengeance, as you yourselves assert (leading article, April 4).

Are the terrified Kurdish refugees at the Turkish border to be denied proper help or indeed safety because the UN charter and the rules of international law prohibit interference in the internal affairs of a nation-state?

This need not be so. The UN coalition should assume the role it adopted in the 1960-1 Congo crisis. Iraq should no longer be regarded as a normal state and the UN can and must act to prevent it from committing acts of genocide.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY LEE WILLIAMS (Director),
Institute of Economic and Political Studies,
18 Wankworth Street, Cambridge.
April 4.

From Mrs Margaret Goslett
Sir, A service of thanksgiving to celebrate the satisfactory ending of the war in the Gulf has been arranged for Saturday, May 4, in Glasgow Cathedral. I suggest that the majority of UK citizens, including I suspect, most of those servicemen who served in the Gulf, feel overwhelmingly that this war has not yet satisfactorily ended and

Proposals for the reform of RPI

From the General Secretary of the Union of Communication Workers

Sir, I wholeheartedly disagree with your assertion (leading article, March 30) that mortgage interest repayments should be replaced as the measure of housing costs in the retail price index. Every trade union, dependent as we are on the RPI as a major guideline in formulating pay claims, would be opposed to an index that is either a government fabrication or unrepresentative of the real costs of living.

Britain has one of the highest owner-occupier rates in Europe and the costs of this must be reflected in the weightings given to the various elements in the RPI. Since 1979 we have been exhorted to own our own homes. If this policy has rebounded on the government, then it should change the policy, not the index.

For most people the value of a house is simply that of another house, rather than (as you state) that the Institute for Fiscal Studies argues) its value depreciated over its lifetime. In a period when many people have 100 per cent mortgages, and indeed have mortgages larger than the value of their homes, it is the interest paid upon a mortgage that remains the most valid criterion of cost.

Most of the media are relatively silent about proposals to alter the RPI, just as they were with the changes to the way the unemployment figures were "adjusted" 18 times downwards.

If the index is to be recast, let it accurately reflect the cost of living for the average family and not be adjusted to suit the economic whims of the government of the day.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN TUFFIN, General Secretary,
The Union of Communication Workers,
UCW House, Crescent Lane, SW4.
April 2.

Union subscriptions

From the General Secretary of the TUC

Sir, Your report headed "Willis urges 10% rise in union subs to avoid ruin" (later editions, April 4) misrepresents the TUC's position in an important way. Our advice to unions concerning increases in subscription rates is intended to apply for 1992 and not this year. There would be no question therefore of encouraging unions to raise subscriptions substantially for a second time in four months, as you state.

I would also dispute your assertion that our plans are "an attempt to head off financial ruin". By international standards, Britain's unions have been underfunded for many years. Competition between unions and membership losses in recent years have also created some problems, but our advice is intended to improve the financial position of unions rather than avert any imminent crisis.

Some unions do have problems but overall the movement is far from ruin and indeed has weathered successive recessions far better than many industries.

Yours sincerely,
NORMAN WILLIS,
General Secretary,
Trades Union Congress,
Congress House,
Great Russell Street, WC1.
April 4.

Loss of bulk carrier

From Ms Joan Walley, MP for Stoke on Trent North (Labour)

Sir, It is totally deplorable that the Department of Transport will not open the enquiry into the loss of the Derbyshire. The Derbyshire, a bulk carrier, was lost without trace and since its sinking in 1980 in the western Pacific there has been constant concern about the cause of its loss.

I am shocked by the secretary of state's announcement on March 25, without any regard to the petition signed by over 75,000 people, the early day motion signed by a significant number of MPs and representations made by the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers.

The conclusions of the department's original investigation have been fundamentally challenged by new scientific evidence and television pictures. The enquiry must be reopened. I believe this to be vital for future shipping safety and for justice to be given to the relatives of the 44 people who died.

Yours sincerely,
JOAN WALLEY (Shadow transport minister),
House of Commons.
March 27.

Missing an hour

From Miss Rosalind Rawnsley

Sir, In this small village we were grateful for an earlier start to Easter (letters, March 30, April 3). It shortened the all-night vigil by one hour, and did not prevent nearly 30 joining the candlelit procession to the vicarage garden for dawn communion (and bonfire) at 6am BST (5am GMT).

Yours faithfully,
ROSALIND RAWNSLEY,
Wyken Cottage, Worfield,
Bridgnorth, Shropshire.
April 4.

Provisions that might allow a legitimate intervention

From Professor Musa Mazzawi

Sir, Some members of the United Nations Security Council are reported to be hesitant about taking active and positive steps in the Iraq situation for fear of contravening article 2(4) and article 2(7) of the UN Charter. Article 2(4) provides: All members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations.

But the purposes of the United Nations given in article 1 include "promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms", so relief for and protection of people of Iraq would be covered by this provision.

Article 2(7) of the UN Charter provides that: Nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state...

What is reported to be happening in Iraq is not of that nature. If the Security Council cannot or will not act there would be justification in international law for any state to intervene to alleviate the situation. Oppenheim, an eminent

authority on international law, says (*International Law* by L. Oppenheim, vol. 1, eighth edition (1955), Longmans, Green & Co.):

...there is a substantial body of opinion among states in support of the view that when a State renders itself guilty of cruelties against and persecution of its nationals in such a way as to deny their fundamental human rights and to shock the conscience of mankind, intervention in the interests of humanity is legally permissible (p. 312).

States with sufficient conscience and courage can legitimately intervene. There may eventually be accusations of "gunboat diplomacy". But if the operation is swift, and no more force is used than is strictly necessary for the humanitarian relief of suffering, such accusations would be likely to sully only the reputation of the accusers.

Yours faithfully,
MUSA MAZZAWI,
2 Paper Buildings,
Temple, EC4.
April 4.

From Mr C. J. Rees
Sir, Dr David Owen calls for humanitarian aid to the Kurds presently dying on the Turkish and other borders with Iraq and for the extradition of Saddam Hussein to

stand trial for war crimes under the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

May I remind him of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 9 1948, which was brought into effect in this country by the Genocide Act 1969. Article II of the Convention provides:

In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

The 1969 Act giving effect to the Convention in this country was passed after the horrors of civil war in West Africa.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN REES,
73 Ringford Road, SW18.
April 4.

Children's evidence

From Professor Sydney Brandon

Sir, Baroness Faithfull's plea (April 4) for the full implementation of the Pigot report on child witnesses will have the support of anyone who has worked with abused children. We will also need to improve the training of police and social workers who will conduct the early video interviews.

The Butler-Sloss (Cleveland) report urged us to listen to the children and respect them in their own right. Attention to both of these reports might in future prevent disasters such as Cleveland and the Orkneys.

Where criminal charges are laid against adults who have abused children the court hearing often occurs months or even years after the event. Video recordings made early in the investigation could certainly reduce the distress of the child witness but the children also need help and support during the long waiting period.

Once a charge is laid and the evidence-in-chief recorded the child, and the family, need therapeutic help and the child needs to be prepared for the ordeal of the court proceedings. Both can be achieved without prejudice to the rights of the accused if there is good liaison between the police, the courts and the helping agencies.

In an ideal world the supporting professionals might be appointed by and be responsible to the court.

Yours faithfully,
SYDNEY BRANDON (Postgraduate Dean),
University of Leicester,
School of Medicine,
Leicester Royal Infirmary,
PO Box 65, Leicester LE2 7LX.

Definition set aside

From Mr Laurence Urdang

Sir, I think Philip Howard (March 29) is mistaken in suggesting that "side-lined" is a "railway term that has passed into our common stock of language". As far as I can determine, the noun side-line (or side line) is not a railway term, though it looks as if it might be what a main line is not.

Another side-line (usually given as sideline) is a term in commerce for an additional line of products offered by a salesman, distributor,

or retailer, but that does not apply here, either.

The side-line referred to is either of two on a playing field. A player is side-lined when, for whatever reason, he is put out of the game - that is, "put aside". The metaphor is transparently extended to other situations in which things, such as proposals, are put aside.

Cordially,
LAURENCE URDANG (Editor),
Verbatim, The Language Quarterly,
PO Box 199,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.
April 1.

Mentally ill in court

From the Chairman of the Criminal Law Solicitors Association and others

Sir, Home Office circular 66/90, recently issued nationwide to all crown court judges, clerks to justices and 4,000 court and police-station duty solicitors, states that "It is the government's policy to divert mentally-disordered persons from the criminal justice system in cases where the public interest does not require their prosecution". In order to assist courts in their decision-making, the circular asks court clerks to make arrangements for speedy access to professional advice and recommends the use of court psychiatric assessments.

In the last two years, "duty" psychiatrists have been operating on a voluntary ad hoc basis, with minimal facilities at three central London courts. Recent analysis shows that even this limited service has made significant savings in public funds, by expediting the transfer of mentally-ill defendants from prison to hospital. The humanitarian benefits, including

the prevention of potential prison suicides, are obvious.

We consider that the development of this initiative, which is also commended in the Woolf report, on a selective (perhaps group) basis, is the best way to use financial and human resources to achieve the government's objective. Co-ordination of national and local agencies will be required, plus the establishment of adequate facilities at court and the recruitment of sufficient psychiatrists, both centrally funded. Implementation on those lines should produce rapid savings of public money and private misery. If the Home Office and the Department of Health would be prepared to fund a working party for this purpose, representatives of our organisations would willingly serve on it.

Yours faithfully,
JEFFREY BAYES, Chairman,
Criminal Law Solicitors Association,
GILLIAN BARNING-BROWNE (President, London),
MICHAEL BURDETT (Member, Legal Aid Board Duty Solicitor Committee),
107/113 Kings Cross Road, WC1.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - (071 782 5046).

Trying to take goals to Newcastle

**Kate Muir meets
Osvaldo Ardiles, the
smart (and cute)
football manager
who is bringing brain
to Geordie brawn**

Here is a useful tip for managers of second division football teams: Osvaldo Ardiles plays chess. He solves the chess problem in *The Times* every day, and applies the game's techniques to football. The transfer from theory to practice in his new job as manager of Newcastle United has not been that easy. Asking footballers to move is one thing. Asking them to think is another.

Mr Ardiles discovered this last Monday, his first day at the St James' Park ground, when his new team were squelched, 2-0, by Bristol Rovers. "I asked them to change their style, to do something they don't usually do, and it was too much. So, it didn't work very well. But it's very early." He wanted some snappy footwork and fancy thinking in the midfield, but Newcastle are a typically English long-distance punt and thump team, and there remained a conflict between art and violence.

The new boy is strangely lacking in fear about the forthcoming culture clash and his plans to Latinise Geordie football. At 38, he has been in the game for 20 years, was capped 42 times for Argentina, and holds a World Cup-winner's medal. He played for the Tottenham Hotspur team who won the FA Cup in 1981, and managed Swindon Town for 18 months. "I'm not arrogant about it. I just had an inner belief I was going to be a good manager. If I did not I would not be here."

He was poached from Swindon Town last week and offered a tidy £120,000 a year. But the logic of planting a middle-class former law student from Buenos Aires on the working-class soil of Tyne-side is beyond some locals. "He'll never speak Geordie, man," says one United groupie, usefully.

The local newspapers' sports writers staking out the hallways of St James' Park are a little sniffy. "A guarded welcome. We'll see how he does." One headline described him as "Honest Ossie" when he admitted — after seeing them play — that Newcastle were unlikely to make the promotion play-offs to the first division. His forthright views "will have served to dampen the enthusiasm of some wavering fans", the *Newcastle Journal* warned.

Wavering? Unlikely. More than 17,000 of them turned out for the first Ossie-managed game, a good



"I have to talk to all the evening paper journalists in the morning, and all the morning paper journalists in the afternoon": Osvaldo Ardiles on life in football-mad Newcastle

crowd for the second division. The point is that in the North there are fans. In wimpish southern M4 commuter-belt Swindon there are supporters. Where a Swindon supporter might be put off by a little rain, a Newcastle fan will relish such suffering, even if his team do not win. For what really matters is that Sunderland, the other local team, lose.

"Yes. They are very happy when something goes wrong with Sunderland," Mr Ardiles muses. "In places like London, there are more distractions, more teams. But here there is one city which is all about football. People here, they only read the back page of the paper, the sport. I have to talk to all the evening paper journalists in the morning, and all the morning paper journalists in the afternoon. Every day. It was nothing like this in Swindon."

Talking non-stop has made Mr Ardiles into a Coke addict as well as a smoker. He has bottles of the stuff in his new office, in a cabinet below the Primrose Coaches cal-

endar featuring a leggy lovely. He does not want to talk about that other Argentine alleged coke consumer, Diego Maradona, who was dismissed by Italy's Naples after a positive drugs test. "Maradona has been my friend, since he was ten years old, and he still is, whatever he's accused of. What has happened to him is simple to understand in sociological terms, which I am not going to go into. He's still the best player in the world."

He is not as smart, however, as Mr Ardiles, who has made the leap from player to manager with ease, avoiding the fate of other ageing footballers: wearing a sheepskin car coat and running a sports shop. When he was imported, fresh from the World Cup, by Tottenham in 1978, he was already showing his intelligence, co-ordinating the team to work together, joining defence or attack depending on where he was most needed. "He's Señor Brains," *The Sun* said. During interviews, he would consult a dictionary for words such as

"The amount of time I stay here will be in direct proportion to the amount of success I have in the job"

"apprehensive" and "tactical", while his fellow players relied on the universal football clichés "Magic, Brian", and "It's the ones in the back of the net that count."

Mr Ardiles is that rare thing in a man — he is intellectually and physically cute. Asked if he is dictatorial in training, he draws himself to his full height and says: "I'm what — 5ft 6ins? — how could I be a dictator?" But there are plenty of small dictators. "Ooh, yes, Napoleon. Touché," he giggles. Clearly he will charm the team into submission, and it is funny watching this in action, as Mr

Ardiles cranes upwards at strapping monsters in team tracksuits queuing for an audience. The captain, Roy Aitken, is pleased. "He's a players' manager, isn't he? He's on our side."

But it will not be easy. With ten league games to go, and the time for player transfers over, improvements will have to come from within the team. "The players lack confidence. Some are playing 20 to 30 per cent below their capabilities, and the whole team suffers."

Mr Ardiles says he prefers to be "with the boys in the grass". He hates office life. "I want them to play entertaining, attacking football. English football is so insular. It is hard to change. Everyone runs at 100mph all the time. But in the World Cup, it's hot. You can't run that fast. You need a lot of skill, a lot of midfield work."

His recipe worked for Swindon, who were promoted to the first division, and then relegated over financial irregularities. He was relieved to move on to Newcastle. "The amount of time I stay here

will be in direct proportion to the amount of success I have in the job." He intends to buy a house with his wife, Sylvia, and later his two teenage sons will join him.

Judging by the autograph hunters, it will not be long before Newcastle accepts him. The days of "the Belgrano factor", when he was booed by football supporters after the Falklands conflict, which he spent in Paris, are over. Even the fact that the Football Association once refused him a coaching qualification, after five years which qualified him as an English player, because he was "a foreigner", no longer rankles. He believes that decision was bureaucratic, rather than racist, and those who know him in the game care about his talent more than his roots.

"I'm here now. Don't need a coaching qualification once you're a manager," he says, swinging around in his chair, in a pleased sort of way. It was put better by a local paper a few days ago: "Away the lads, Magpies Out to Steal Win and Ossie."

Bastion of What?

Oriel's first woman provost, a quiet success

THE Rev Dr Ernest C. Oriel, provost of Oriel College, Oxford, is the man behind the appointment of Sarah C. Oriel as the college's first woman provost. But he is in no mood to boast about women in a male bastion.

Ms Coakley is also not to speak. "The provost made it clear he doesn't want to do an interview," she says. "There are certain things in the college who do things being in the press."

One might imagine a stout to fill Oriel with priests. In fact, Ms C. Oriel will be teaching these college's first female do it was founded in 1324. Oriel, which in 19 came the last college mixed, is sensitive about labelled a male forte provost minimises the significance of Ms C. Oriel's appointment: "The woman is not about to collapse college has two other fellows, plus a female scholar. Five years broke the historic link the college chaplaincy tutorial fellowship in 1987, previously, had to be Anglican priest."

Ms Coakley is regarded as one of the best theologians of her generation. After taking a degree, she did post-work and produced a book, *Ernst Troeltsch, the theologian, before his* Lancaster university, woman in his religious faculty. By sharing her sorship with her husband, a fellow theologian, she has managed up two children. In joined the Doctrine mission of the Church land, a male-dominated which writes on docu

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Census and sensibilities

Why filling in the ten-yearly headcount form provokes the oddest of anxieties

Any day now, a pleasant person will turn up on your doorstep with a census form: the nineteenth in succession since 1801. (It should have been the twentieth, but in 1941 Britain flinched at attempting to count its embattled and evacuated citizens.) The doorstepper is known by the carefully bland title of enumerators: gone are the robust Victorian days when the ten-yearly census was carried out by constables, tithe-men, and overseers of the poor, many of them no doubt carrying truncheons just in case. The enumerator will smile nicely, both on delivering your form and on collecting it again the day after Census Night, April 22.

Unless, of course, you have torn it up, fed it to the dog, or spoilt it by frivolously insisting that you have 18 Chinese lodgers in the loft. If you have, you are in trouble. In the explanatory leaflets the Census Office slips in the odd veiled threat: "There is only one circumstance in which the census form from an identified individual might be revealed to other people before

who, as head of household, had the duty of writing it down. A light leader in *The Times* entitled "Mr Barrett's Great Day" portrayed the master at work in a civilisation long gone: "Tactfully he will find out the age of the valued retainer who has made it his chief business to conceal this very thing for the last generation... Diplomacy will somehow steer him in safety away from a confession to his wife that he has forgotten the year of their marriage and the birthdays of all their children." Forty years on, the wife will probably fill in the form, and the only live-in

domestic help will have been born in about 1974. By 1971, the protest generation had worked up a small head of steam about government snooping: in my university there was a pleasing rumour that if you rubbed candle-wax over certain sections of the form the computer would not be able to read them.

I cannot remember whether our shared house actually got round to doing this, but I do remember a splendid row about which of us was the head of household. Ten years later, we were all getting on in life and less wary

of forms: if you parents, in good camp and owning an inside census makes you a Smuggler, anyway, it broke student, the divorcee or the cardiac dweller (who is to be it this time by volunteer streets).

My mease, now I the candlewax stage discovered that the head of household worth fighting for, is a one. It is the sheer emment of admitting to a house with four oo and four lavatories. It way when we bought est, and is not otherwise large. But what w enumerator think?

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WOOLWORTHS



the 100-year period has elapsed. If a person is prosecuted under the 1920 Census Act... the form may be produced in court... So there you are. Get a pen, fill it in... If the census is "a snapshot of Britain" on the night of April 21 (why did they choose London Marathon day, when all those exhausted runners will be sleeping on friends' sofas?), then attitudes to it are as equally good snapshot of individuals' lives and times. In 1951, report has it, women flooded agony aunts with their dread of revealing their true age: not least to their husbands.

ILG Travel Limited

Do you think ILG Travel Limited (including its major trading names of Club 18-30, Global, Intasun, Lancaster and Select) owes you any money?

Notice is hereby given that on 8th March 1991:

- An Administration Order was made in respect of ILG TRAVEL LIMITED by Mr Justice Harman;
- William Frederick Ratford and Christopher Timothy Esmond Hayward both of KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock of 1 Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, London EC4 were appointed as Joint Administrators of ILG TRAVEL LIMITED.

A meeting of the creditors of ILG TRAVEL LIMITED has been convened by the Joint Administrators pursuant to Section 23 of the Insolvency Act 1986 for Friday 19th April 1991 to be held at The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster, London for the purpose of considering the proposals of the Joint Administrators.

ALL persons who are CREDITORS of ILG TRAVEL LIMITED are entitled to attend this meeting and are entitled to a copy of the statement containing the proposals of the Joint Administrators. If YOU consider that you are owed money by ILG TRAVEL LIMITED for whatever reason PLEASE write to the Joint Administrators at the following address: The Joint Administrators of ILG TRAVEL LIMITED, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP.

Please mark the envelope "ILG TRAVEL LIMITED - CREDITORS MEETING"

In writing your letter PLEASE make sure that you include:

- Your full name and address;
- FULL details of why ILG TRAVEL LIMITED owes you money.

If having received your letter the Joint Administrators consider that you may be owed money by ILG TRAVEL LIMITED they will send you a copy of the statement of their proposals to be considered at the meeting of creditors. If you receive one of these you will be entitled to attend the creditors meeting on Friday 19th April 1991.

Even if you do not receive a copy of the proposals of the Joint Administrators in response to your letter or you do not write to the Joint Administrators, you may still be entitled to be present at the creditors meeting. If you consider ILG TRAVEL LIMITED owes you money please attend at the meeting and the representatives of the Joint Administrators will tell you whether you are entitled to attend. However, if you do not attend this will not affect your rights or any rights you may have as a creditor of ILG TRAVEL LIMITED.

If you turn up at the creditors meeting and are entitled to be present you will be given a copy of the proposals of the Joint Administrators and may be entitled to vote.

...or a Charles

The Rev Dr Ernest C. Oriel, provost of Oriel College, Oxford, is the man behind the appointment of Sarah C. Oriel as the college's first woman provost. But he is in no mood to boast about women in a male bastion.

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Driven to bloody shooting

TELEVISION

40 Minutes/
True Stories
BBC/Channel 4

IN NEW York, apparently, there is a category of homicide known as "a drive-by shooting". Presumably, in an automobile-crazed society known for its drive-in banks and drive-in takeaways, such a development was always on the cards. Last night's fascinating 40 Minutes, entitled "Video Vultures" (BBC 2), was about another kind of drive-by shooting. It focused on T.C. Cinton, a freelance video cameraman who drives purposefully (and seemingly without pause) around the night-time city streets, intent on filming the aftermaths of homicides for the morning's TV news.

Not surprisingly, his handiwork is artistically negligible. Brightly lit pools of blood on slushy tarmac (sometimes festooned with incident tape) are T.C. Cinton's stock-in-trade. But since the salaciousity of his footage depends entirely on things he does not have time to investigate — who killed whom? why? — Cinton sensibly keeps his attention firmly fixed on speed and efficiency.

This phlegmatic attitude was in stark contrast to the seemingly crazed necrophilia of a fellow-travelling still photographer, who eagerly showed us his favourite snaps of mutilated corpses.

Cinton's mad-eyed friend carried these pictures in the sort of handy plastic flipover wallet usually devoted to holiday photos ("Let's see: this man was hit by a train; this one was shot"). When the 40 Minutes camera held back from looking at these bright-red pictures in close-up, he seemed slightly offended — as though they really were snaps of little Tommy on the beach.

Meanwhile, on Channel 4, Nick Broomfield's superb comic documentary *The Leader, His Driver and the Driver's Wife* was unfolding with great panache. Set among the white supremacists of South

Africa, this was yet another road movie, with Broomfield and his crew driving all over Natal in a doomed attempt to interview Eugene Terreblanche, the Sir Peter Hall lookalike who leads the paramilitary AWB party. Broomfield narrated the story in an engaging deadpan tone ("Johanna was trying to talk my assistant Rita into marrying him," he explained, when two snickering Boers failed repeatedly to put over a sexist joke), and appeared frequently in shot, shrugging at the camera after each set-back.

THERE is, of course, nothing funny about the AWB: their answer to the sea of troubles is emphatically to take arms against it. Broomfield regularly mentioned news stories of AWB members attacking black Sunday school congregations, and emptying their revolvers — into buses full of black children. But if he also made the AWB look ridiculous, he can claim to have been provoked. An equestrian Terreblanche, attempting to hold aloft his Nazi-style insignia while an uncooperative stallion pranced beneath him, was the hilarious stuff of all satires on tin-pot dictators.

What made this documentary special, however, was the relationship Broomfield struck up with Terreblanche's driver, J.P. Meyer, over the long weeks of missed appointments. Broomfield's method was like that of the endlessly patient wildlife photographer: get them accustomed to having you around, gain their trust. Meyer clearly enjoyed the attention of the ever-present camera; he came across as a decent bloke, with a sense of humour. It was doubly surprising, then, when he spoke zealously of "the white uniform God gave us to wear" (i.e. his skin), or said that "the climate is coming to be ripe for human life to be taken". The extraordinary achievement of Broomfield's film was that he educated such a genuine, unpretentious performance from this self-proclaimed "bloody racist". It was the very opposite of a drive-by shooting.

LYNNE TRUSS



Eugene Terreblanche, subject of Nick Broomfield's comic documentary, *The Leader, His Driver and the Driver's Wife*

NEW RELEASES

O & A (18) Corruption and racism in New York's justice system. (20) A young man's journey to self-discovery. (21) A young man's journey to self-discovery.

THE FIELD (12) Richard Harris in Three Islands, fighting for his life. (13) A young man's journey to self-discovery. (14) A young man's journey to self-discovery.

CURRENT

AMERICAN FRIENDS (PG) A friendship between a young man and a young woman. (13) A young man's journey to self-discovery. (14) A young man's journey to self-discovery.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jerome Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

House full, return only

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol (S) on release across the country.

through Custer mounts his directorial debut with a story of a young man's journey to self-discovery. (13) A young man's journey to self-discovery. (14) A young man's journey to self-discovery.

THE FIELD (12) Richard Harris in Three Islands, fighting for his life. (13) A young man's journey to self-discovery. (14) A young man's journey to self-discovery.

CURRENT

AMERICAN FRIENDS (PG) A friendship between a young man and a young woman. (13) A young man's journey to self-discovery. (14) A young man's journey to self-discovery.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jerome Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

House full, return only

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

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BUSINESS

FRIDAY APRIL 5 1991

Deputy Business Editor
Robert Ballantyne

Two UK groups raising £121m

Two large British construction companies are seeking cash £121 million from investors. One is seeking £77 million for a two-for-seven rights issue and the other £44 million for a 10 per cent stake in its parent company.

The first company, which is a subsidiary of a large construction group, is seeking £77 million for a two-for-seven rights issue. The second company, which is a subsidiary of a large construction group, is seeking £44 million for a 10 per cent stake in its parent company.

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United lands at Heathrow and takes on Virgin

Transatlantic air fare price war takes off

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A TRANSATLANTIC price war loomed last night after Stephen Wolf, chairman of United Airlines, pledged to match any fare to America.

On the day that his company's first flights landed at Heathrow, Mr Wolf said United, the largest airline in the Western world, would match Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic Airways "even if it gets to the point where you will fly for free and we will give you £100 to do so."

Mr Branson countered with an attack on the quality of service offered by United. He also took a sideswipe at British Airways marketing campaign, saying: "We don't have to give away seats to attract customers." Virgin insisted Mr Wolf had yet to make good his promise, claiming United's fares were, typically, 15 per cent more expensive.

Mr Wolf also promised that United would mount a campaign to encourage Americans to holiday in Europe.

United, whose slogan is "Fly the friendly skies", flew its first four transatlantic flights into Heathrow yesterday morning after a successful five-month battle with transport authorities for approval to take over routes from Pan Am. UAL, parent company of United, paid \$290 million for the routes. Mr Wolf arrived from Washington on the first flight.

Virgin, however, has also received approval to increase flights across the Atlantic. Competition is likely to intensify further when American Airlines completes the takeover of transatlantic routes purchased for \$445 million from TWA.

Mr Wolf gave warning for the first time that United's marketing arrangement with British Airways was at risk. BA faces the loss of transatlantic passengers previously "fed" by United's domestic flights under the agreement.

Mr Wolf said talks with BA had begun. "We are certainly going to modify our marketing arrangement," he said. "Now we will feed ourselves." Mr Wolf said some arrangements might continue.

In the last quarter of 1990, higher fuel costs and a slump in passengers triggered by the Gulf war caused United to

make a \$296 million operating loss, the worst in its history. Mr Wolf said: "We will probably look at a number that is not too different from that in the first quarter of this year."

At the same time, United has contracted to take delivery of a new Boeing plane every week for the next three or four years. The replacement programme for its ageing fleet will cost \$40 billion.

Mr Wolf predicted a similar shakeout of operators in the European airline business to the one that has occurred after deregulation of the American industry in the past decade.

He showed only lukewarm enthusiasm for moves to open the huge internal American market to foreign competition. Mr Wolf said he would support efforts for BA to win cabotage rights to fly within America only if the US government obtained comparable rights elsewhere which would balance the effect on United's business.

By the end of May, United will fly from six American cities into Heathrow. There will be 14 flights a week to and from Kennedy Airport at New York, and Dulles, at Washington. In addition, there will be daily services from San Francisco, Los Angeles and Newark, and five flights a week from Seattle. United will also operate onward flights to and from Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels and Frankfurt.

By the end of the year, United expects to employ 1,300 people in London. Some will be staff previously employed by Pan Am and Air Europe.

United they stand: the American carrier's aircraft after making their flights to Heathrow yesterday

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Wolf at the door: Stephen Wolf arrives at Heathrow

BZW downgrades BA profits

BRITISH Airways, which has been fighting to regain lost passengers in the wake of the Gulf war and the recessionary squeeze, has had its profits downgraded by Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

BZW has slashed its pre-tax profits forecast for this year from £200 million to £120 million, and from £150 million to break-even next year.

The shares reacted with a fall of 8p to 163p.

Ian Wild, a transport analyst at BZW, said: "The decline in traffic is greater than we originally expected." He feels that, in spite of the variety of offers from BA as it

attempts to woo back passengers, traffic is recovering too slowly to be sure of a maintained final dividend. He expects the average yield to be 5 per cent lower than initially thought. He added: "In airline terms, this is a major change."

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Ashcroft denies allegation of improper share deal in BAA

By ANGELA MACKAY

MICHAEL Ashcroft, chairman of ADT, the car auction and security company, has rejected an allegation that he improperly dealt in BAA shares, denying he ever owned a personal stake. The allegation was made by ADT's biggest shareholder, Laidlaw, the Canadian waste disposal and bus company, in a lengthy complaint filed with US courts last week.

According to a statement yesterday, ADT, and some of its directors named in the complaint, have started proceedings against Laidlaw, Donald Jackson, its chief executive officer, and others for defamation.

ADT's first line of counter-attack will be to seek today in the Southern District Court of New York to have Laidlaw's complaint dismissed. At the heart of the complaint are allegations that ADT published accounts giving "a false and misleading" impression of the true state of ADT's finances.

ADT said it believed the allegations were part of an attempt by Laidlaw "to renege on its standstill agreement with ADT".

In the complaint filed last week, Laidlaw alleged Mr Ashcroft had bought a 5 per cent stake in BAA and sold his shares on November 29, 1990, hours before ADT sold a similar block which resulted in the shares falling 12p to 392p. Mr Ashcroft said he had never held a personal stake in

BAA and never made an announcement to the Stock Exchange that he had sold such a stake as alleged by Laidlaw. BZW and Smith New Court, who purchased the ADT stake, said ADT's deal represented the bulk of stock exchange dealings in BAA on November 29.

ADT's counsel is expected to submit several examples of purported inaccuracies in the complaint to the district court to try to have it dismissed today.

Apart from the BAA allegation, another example involves Laidlaw's allegation that ADT has adopted anti-takeover by-laws which the Canadian company said "authorise the board to ignore transfers of stock to transfers of whom they do not approve".

ADT would argue that, according to the company's by-law 24, the only instances where directors may refuse to register transfers is when the company has a charge or a lien on the shares, when they are not fully paid shares or when voting rights of the shares are suspended. Counsel will submit ADT has fully paid shares only and has not suspended any shareholder's voting rights.

Concerned by the sharp devaluation of its 29 per cent stake in ADT, Laidlaw has delayed ADT's annual meeting and is trying to place four of its directors on the board.

Revision erases retail sales rise

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

OFFICIAL revisions have wiped out the 1 per cent rise in retail sales initially reported for February, confirming the trade's impression that sales remained flat last month.

The downgrading emerged in seasonally adjusted data from the Central Statistical Office, which brought the retail sales indices since 1986 into line with recent survey information.

The Bundesbank's decision to leave its key interest rates unchanged brought little change in market sentiment for further cuts in British base rates, with the government

seen likely to wait until at least after the March retail price data next Friday. The pound held steady, despite nervousness over the Neath by-election. But the dollar fell back after American jobless claims figures showed the biggest weekly increase this year.

The figures prompted speculation that American interest rates could be lowered after today's labour market figures. Sterling gained 55 points higher against the dollar at \$1.7835, and gained almost a penny to DM2.9743. Its trade-weighted index was unchanged at 92.7.

WPP unlikely to resume dividends before 1993

By JONATHAN PRYNN

WPP, the marketing services group, said it is unlikely to recommence payments on its shares before June 1993, under the bank refinancing terms announced yesterday.

WPP passed its dividend last month, in spite of a 20 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £90 million. The refinancing has been expected since November when the company told its bankers it was likely to break its covenants in the second quarter of this year. WPP's share price slumped to a low of 59p, but recovered strongly this week to close last night at 189p, up 23p.

Refinancing details have emerged largely as expected. The group's banking facilities have been amalgamated into a single enlarged medium-term

facility of about \$1 billion, with financial covenants loosened in exchange for margins widened by an average of 0.75 per cent.

The key interest cover covenant has been relaxed to about two times.

Bankers will receive success fees. Under a complicated formula related to WPP's ordinary share price and the rate at which the company pays off its borrowings, the maximum success fee payable is £10 million. The total maximum bank and professional fees involved in the refinancing are thought to be not more than £20 million.

WPP is allowed to settle its earn-out commitments of up to £31.2 million in cash rather than shares. The interest rate

covenant means that ordinary and preference shareholders are unlikely to see any dividends either this year or next. A preference dividend that falls due on April 30 will be passed because of insufficient distributable reserves. Six months from that date, the holders of the preference shares become entitled to voting rights.

WPP warned that because of the covenants "it is unlikely that the company will have sufficient distributable reserves to pay dividends on its shares until at least June 1993." WPP also issued a statement, advising that increased confidence since the end of the Gulf war "has not, as yet, been reflected in more client spending."

Lowndes customers paid £7m

By OUR CITY STAFF

REFUND cheques worth a total of £7 million were today posted to 25,000 customers of Lowndes Queensway, the furniture chain that went into receivership last August.

The customers had made payments in advance for goods they did not receive. Full repayment is being made under a £15 million insurance policy set up by Lowndes Queensway to cover its possible failure. About 2,000 customer claims, where further information is awaited, have still to be settled.

Jonathan Phillips, of Price Waterhouse, the accountancy firm that is handling the claims, said: "I am confident there is sufficient money in the pot to pay all valid claims in full."

Bank breaks ranks over customer confidentiality

The Co-op stops co-operating

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE "people's bank", the Co-operative, has come down on the side of the people when it comes to keeping financial affairs private — the bank has decided to abolish the system of confidential credit references as the first section of a new customer charter.

The charter destroys the consensus between high street banks over their plan for a new joint code of practice. The introduction of the code was delayed last month after complaints from consumer groups that it ignored many of the recommendations in the original Jack report on banking practice.

Unfortunately, the user-friendliness of the Co-operative did not appear to have helped its financial performance last year. The bank was severely hit by bad debt provisions and fell to a loss of £14.9

million in the year to January 12, down from a pre-tax profit of £18.5 million. Provisions rose 111 per cent to £57.1 million, while the Co-operative Wholesale Society, the 100 per cent shareholder, has agreed to pass its £2.5 million annual dividend. The bank suffered its largest write-offs against the collapse of Pavilion Leisure, a hotel operator, and Citygrove, the property company earlier this year. These accounted for a large part of a £16 million provision for post-balance sheet events.

On confidentiality, Terry Thomas, the managing director, said public hostility to the code of practice showed that customers wanted banks to implement the full report. Any high street bank can presently apply to another for a credit reference on a customer. The customer may never know the reference was asked for or given, and is never told the

contents of the reference. The Co-op claims the system is being abused by companies and individuals to discover financial secrets. From June 3, the Co-op will give out a reference only after it receives written permission from a customer. It will then send a copy of the reference to the account holder.

This is the first in a series of initiatives that will develop into the charter. Next, Mr Thomas said, the Co-op would look at ways of restricting access to customer's names and addresses. Ultimately, everyone will sign a copy of the charter when they open an account at the bank. The customer charter is the latest move by the Co-op that other banks have eventually been forced to follow. Previous successes have included free banking and interest-paying current accounts.

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TIMES

By MARTIN BARROW

Turnover was £145.75 million, compared with £124 million and trading profits were £16.39 million (£14.85 million). Interest charges for the full year were £2.21 million, only marginally lower than the previous year's pro-forma charge of £2.45 million, but the benefits of debt reduction are expected to materialise this year.

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

FROM JOANNA PITMAN
IN TOKYO

Jonan Shinkin is expected to pass on loan business to DKB that it is unable to perform itself. Shinkin banks may only do business with companies that have a capital base of less than ¥600 million and fewer than 300 employees. Jonan Shinkin will benefit from DKB's low cost of funds.

Tom Pyne, the deputy chief executive, said that the business is now closed, and that L&M is "nursing through existing loans" in an attempt to recover some of the provisions.



BY JONATHAN PREYNN

The downturn, which Hugh Lang, the chairman, said was particularly steep in the final three months of the year, resulted in a 12 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £11.4 million for the 12 months to end-December. Profits had been only 3 per cent down at the half year. Turnover in the

costs of 2885,000, recorded as an exceptional item. He said that with its ungeared balance sheet, Brammer was well placed to improve its competitive position this year and he remained confident of the long term outlook.

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

BMW recently announced net profits up from DM558 million to DM696 million. Operating profits rose DM100 million to DM1.66 billion and turnover from DM26.5 billion to DM27.2 billion.

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital Inc.

ET SE 100 VOLUMES

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ITE, D. Fischer
43 Av. du Bois de la Cambre
1050 Brussel, Belgium.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

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DOLLAR SPOT R		OTHER STERLING RATES		DOLLAR SPOT R	
1 month		Athenian sunspot		12.7295-12.7315	
3 months		Australia dollar		2.2087-2.2271	
6 months		Belgian dollar		1.457-2.47	
9 months		Brazilian dollar		0.5140-0.5240	
12 months		Canada dollar		0.6925-0.7025	
15 months		Denmark dollar		2.2010-2.2110	
18 months		France dollar		12.6510-12.6530	
21 months		Germany dollar		94.00-95.00	
24 months		Hong Kong dollar		0.9175-0.9275	
27 months		India rupee		4.8814-4.8914	
30 months		Japan dollar		520.0-530.0	
33 months		Korea dollar		2.5000-2.5100	
36 months		Malaysia dollar		3.1345-3.1385	
39 months		Mexico peso		4.8120-4.8220	
42 months		New Zealand dollar		1.3100-1.3200	
45 months		Saudi Arabia riyal		0.9000-0.9100	
48 months		Singapore dollar		0.9100-0.9200	
51 months		South Africa rand		1.4000-1.4100	
54 months		U.A.E. dirham		1.4000-1.4100	
57 months		U.S. dollar		1.0000-1.0100	
60 months		U.S. dollar		1.0000-1.0100	
63 months		U.S. dollar		1.0000-1.0100	
66 months		U.S. dollar		1.0000-1.0100	
69 months		U.S. dollar		1.0000-1.0100	
72 months		U.S. dollar		1.0000-1.0100	
75 months		U.S. dollar		1.0000-1.0100	
78 months		U.S. dollar		1.0000-1.0100	
81 months		U.S. dollar		1.0000-1.0100	
84 months		U.S. dollar		1.0000-1.0100	
87 months		U.S. dollar		1.0000-1.0100	
90 months		U.S. dollar		1.0000-1.0100	
93 months		U.S. dollar		1.0000-1.0100	
96 months		U.S. dollar		1.0000-1.0100	
99 months		U.S. dollar		1.0000-1.0100	
102 months		U.S. dollar		1.0000-1.0100	
105 months		U.S. dollar		1.0000-1.0100	
108 months		U.S. dollar		1.0000-1.0100	
111 months		U.S. dollar		1.0000-1.0100	
114 months		U.S. dollar		1.0000-1.0100	
117 months		U.S. dollar		1.0000-1.0100	
120 months		U.S. dollar		1.0000-1.0100	
123 months		U.S. dollar		1.0000-1.0100	

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Some profits taken

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 2. Dealings end April 12. Contango day April 15. Settlement day April 22.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Portfolio PLATINUM

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Company	Price	Change	%
Water	100.00	0.00	0.0
Water (Africa)	100.00	0.00	0.0
Water (Asia)	100.00	0.00	0.0
Water (Europe)	100.00	0.00	0.0
Water (Latin America)	100.00	0.00	0.0
Water (Middle East)	100.00	0.00	0.0
Water (North America)	100.00	0.00	0.0
Water (Oceania)	100.00	0.00	0.0
Water (South America)	100.00	0.00	0.0
Water (Africa)	100.00	0.00	0.0
Water (Asia)	100.00	0.00	0.0
Water (Europe)	100.00	0.00	0.0
Water (Latin America)	100.00	0.00	0.0
Water (Middle East)	100.00	0.00	0.0
Water (North America)	100.00	0.00	0.0
Water (Oceania)	100.00	0.00	0.0
Water (South America)	100.00	0.00	0.0

Use take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
make a note of your daily totals
be weekly dividend of \$4000 in
row's newspapers.

Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Dividend							

2000 Portfolio Platinum prize was
awarded by Mr Robert Hutchinson, of
and, Surrey.

BRITISH FUNDS

(Under Five Years)

Fund	Price	Change	%
British Fund	100.00	0.00	0.0

15 YEARS

Fund	Price	Change	%
British Fund	100.00	0.00	0.0

15 YEARS

Fund	Price	Change	%
British Fund	100.00	0.00	0.0

15 YEARS

Fund	Price	Change	%
British Fund	100.00	0.00	0.0

15 YEARS

Fund	Price	Change	%
British Fund	100.00	0.00	0.0

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British Fund	100.00	0.00	0.0

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British Fund	100.00	0.00	0.0

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British Fund	100.00	0.00	0.0

15 YEARS

Fund	Price	Change	%
British Fund	100.00	0.00	0.0

15 YEARS

Fund	Price	Change	%
British Fund	100.00	0.00	0.0

BREWERIES

Company	Price	Change	%
Brewery	100.00	0.00	0.0

BUILDING, ROADS

Company	Price	Change	%
Building	100.00	0.00	0.0

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Company	Price	Change	%
Chemical	100.00	0.00	0.0

DRAPEY, STORES

Company	Price	Change	%
Drapey	100.00	0.00	0.0

ELECTRICITY

Company	Price	Change	%
Electricity	100.00	0.00	0.0

FINANCE, LAND

Company	Price	Change	%
Finance	100.00	0.00	0.0

FOODS

Company	Price	Change	%
Food	100.00	0.00	0.0

HOTELS, CATERERS

Company	Price	Change	%
Hotel	100.00	0.00	0.0

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	Price	Change	%
Industrial	100.00	0.00	0.0

INDUSTRIALS E-K

Company	Price	Change	%
Industrial	100.00	0.00	0.0

INDUSTRIALS L-R

Company	Price	Change	%
Industrial	100.00	0.00	0.0

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

Company	Price	Change	%
Industrial	100.00	0.00	0.0

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	Price	Change	%
Industrial	100.00	0.00	0.0

INDUSTRIALS E-K

Company	Price	Change	%
Industrial	100.00	0.00	0.0

INDUSTRIALS L-R

Company	Price	Change	%
Industrial	100.00	0.00	0.0

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

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Company	Price	Change	%
Industrial	100.00	0.00	0.0

INDUSTRIALS L-R

Company	Price	Change	%
Industrial	100.00	0.00	0.0

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

Company	Price	Change	%
Industrial	100.00	0.00	0.0

Portfolio PLATINUM

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PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

Company	Price	Change	%
Paper	100.00	0.00	0.0

PROPERTY

Company	Price	Change	%
Property	100.00	0.00	0.0

SHOES, LEATHER

Company	Price	Change	%
Shoes	100.00	0.00	0.0

TEXTILES

Company	Price	Change	%
Textile	100.00	0.00	0.0

TOBACCO

Company	Price	Change	%
Tobacco	100.00	0.00	0.0

TRANSPORT

Company	Price	Change	%
Transport	100.00	0.00	0.0

WATER

Company	Price	Change	%
Water	100.00	0.00	0.0

WATER

Company	Price	Change	%
Water	100.00	0.00	0.0

Difficult decisions as the economy takes a dive

For the first time in the short history of the venture capital sector, the amount of money invested by venture capitalists last year contracted. "Venture capital in the Eighties was a phenomenon," says Dr Gordon Murray of the Warwick Business School, which has compiled a pessimistic survey of the opinions of leading venture capitalists. "It has yet to prove itself an industry."

Most venture capitalists are encountering problems as increasing numbers of their investee companies get into difficulties. Ron Holliday, the managing director of Lloyds Development Capital, says: "There is a deep sense of shock at the number of portfolio company failures and intensive care cases, which are taking up a massive amount of time and are producing a generally risk-averse attitude among venture capitalists."

The decline in confidence is illustrated by latest buyout figures from KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock. In the first quarter of 1991, buyouts worth only £270 million were completed, the lowest total for three months since the third quarter of 1986. The picture is even more dramatic at the larger end of the range. So far this year there have been only seven management buyouts (MBOs) valued at more than £10 million. The largest of these, the £35 million Reedpack Plastics deal, would have ranked only thirteenth in size in 1990.

David Carter, the head of fundraising at KPMG, believes the phenomenon is largely due to the unavailability of bank finance. "Lenders have cold feet, as they have seen 6 per cent of MBOs over £10 million fail, mainly in the last year, and provisions for other possible failures have grown."

At the smaller end, many venture

Jonathan Prynn finds out in a special report that venture capitalists, hit by the recession, have taken bigger risks than they calculated

capitalists say they have seen more deals than ever before. But, according to Trevor Jones, the managing director of Gresham Trust, even in the once buoyant £2 million to £10 million range, there has been a decline in the deal flow of about 50 per cent since the middle of last year. Even when deal proposals are presented to venture capitalists, making the investment decision is even more difficult than before because of the uncertain prospects for the economy. Preparing forecasts for business plans is hazardous at the best of times; at present, it is a financiers' nightmare. The result is an overall reluctance to invest.

For example, the Glasgow-based Murray Ventures, which claims to be the largest British venture capital group based outside London, reduced its new investment in 1990 from £50 million to £20 million. In the first quarter of the current year Murray invested £10 million and predicts about £40 million for the year as a whole. Prices have tumbled, however, with average multiples having fallen from around eight to bottom out at about five in the last six to 12 months.

The combination of portfolio problems and lack of new investment opportunities is proving lethal to some once high profile companies. Security Pacific Hoare Govett Equity



Dr Gordon Murray: "Venture capital has yet to prove itself"

Ventures closed its doors to business earlier this year, and some other American venture capital offshoots are also thought to be considering their future in the market.

British companies are reining back, too. Kleinwort Benson recently closed its regional operations. In total, about half a dozen companies operating on the periphery are thought to have withdrawn. The mighty 3i, once seen as the IBM of venture capital, recently changed focus from venture to investment capital, and is known to have laid off some of its staff. In 1990 its market share slipped from 29 to 20 per cent.

Iain Tulloch, an investment director, of Murray Ventures, forecasts that there is much change in the industry still to come. The plethora of institution-backed funds raised in the past three years will soon need to start demonstrating returns to their investors in 1993 and 1994. Those companies which have not invested successfully, he argues, are unlikely to get fresh funds and will have to withdraw from the market.

This need to provide returns for investors could have unhealthy side-effects for the venture capital markets in the next few years, Mr Jones says. "The wrong factors are at work. What should drive the market is the need for a change of ownership of business entities. The people who should decide whether the company should be sold on again are the management. And that is what you don't get. It's the tail wagging the dog."

The need for these funds to achieve exits could result in a state of enforced flotations of management buyouts even if conditions remain unfavourable. Another change foreseen by many in the industry is the continued decline of the management buy-in, once the bread and butter of the venture capitalist's range. According to Paul Brooks, the managing director of Prudential Venture Managers, buy-ins are now seen as "almost as risky as start-ups."

Historically, venture capitalists have demanded similar rates of return from buyout and buy-in deals. That is now changing, according to Mr Jones. "People realised that management buy-ins are more risky than they perceived. And they now appreciate the quality of an MBO where the buyout team has been with the company for a number of years. People are prepared to sharpen their pencils on buyouts because they recognise the quality of the transaction."

The problem with buy-ins, Mr Brooks says, is that they add too many additional risks to the equation; it makes more sense to finance the management team in a buyout.



Sheepish look when John Ashcroft's Coloroll collapsed other companies suffer

Subsidiary lambs avoid the slaughter

Venture capital used to finance growth; increasingly it is about survival. Many in the industry believe venture capitalists can play a crucial role in providing struggling companies with the support they need at a time when the banks are pulling in their horns.

Patrick Bulmer, a director of Causeway Capital, the London investment managers, recommends that companies in financial difficulty should discuss their funding requirements with a venture capital provider at the earliest possible stage.

Causeway claims that it will respond to business plans from companies in difficulties within 48 hours, but has yet, to date, completed such a rescue deal. These deals are more complicated, involve more work and greater risks. However, Geoffrey Vero, also a director of Causeway, predicts that 20 to 30 companies could be refinanced with venture capital over the next six months.

According to Paul Brooks, the managing director of Prudential Venture Managers (PVM), most management teams leave it until too late

The fallout from failure can suck in healthy companies

before approaching a venture capitalist. Even so, PVM is concluding many deals in which management teams are raising capital to strengthen their own companies' balance sheets rather than paying to buy a company.

In many cases, otherwise viable companies are coming under threat because their source of funding is suddenly cut off through receivership of a parent company. The subsidiary may be profitable but, deprived of capital, will be quickly forced out of business.

In the case of a substantial receivership, dozens of small companies may be threatened by the failure of the parent. As one venture capitalist, based in the northwest, says: "Coloroll kept us all busy for six months."

In total, eight buyouts were spun out of the doomed home furnishings company, and a further eight out of Response Group, itself an earlier buyout

from Coloroll. Buyouts from the riskier than management buyouts involve acquiring without the comfort rantes provided by corporate seller. Even figures from the Ci Management Buyout search at Nottingham City suggest that in quarter of this year preceded 20 per buyouts were from ships. For 1990 the about 13 per cent.

In rare cases, an backed by venture may attempt to keep troubled group. P most celebrated ex- Candover's failed by Coloroll shortly before posed deal would volved an injection than £100 million company built up Ashcroft, but talks e broke down when tional £50 million of were discovered.

In the recession ment buyouts and bu failing by the dozen. l the tally was 88, alim times the figure for 11

Funds begin to dry up as tide turns on boom

Years of growth are giving way to a more critical view. Institutions find investments fail to live up to expectations.

AFTER a decade of growth, the industry is assessing its achievements and prospects.

In 1981, the industry invested £66 million. Eight years later, according to a Warwick Business School survey for the British Venture Capital Association (BVCA) of 20 organisations, the annual investment by members had reached £1.42 billion, an average yearly growth rate of almost 50 per cent.

However, 1989 represents the high water mark of the seemingly unstoppable tide of venture capital funds.

In 1990, figures show that venture capital investment fell to £1.1 billion and the 1991 figure is also unlikely to match that for 1989. As in any fast growth industry during a period of retrenchment, the problems of over-capacity are starting to show.

The "problem" facing the industry in the Eighties was too much money chasing too few deals. The inevitable consequence was excessive competition, too-high prices and low returns.

As a result, many of the institutional investors attracted to unquoted equities two or three years ago are having second thoughts. The Warwick survey finds that 74 per cent of respondents believe that the realistic returns to institutional investors have been overvalued.

More than a third of respondents — 36 per cent — believe that current funds would result in poor profit performance that would not meet investors' current expectations.

The rapidly changing institutional attitude toward ven-

ture capital seems likely to be the driving force behind a future restructuring of the venture capital scene.

More than 40 per cent of respondents considered "scarcity of new funds for the industry" the biggest threat to venture capitalists over the next five years. Also seen as threats were "pressure on venture capitalists' profit margins" (36 per cent) and "increased pressure on venture capitalists to demonstrate investment performance" (32 per cent).

Many venture capitalists now believe that their less successful competitors will be forced to withdraw from the industry as institutional investors become more discriminating.

This process, respondents believe, will leave the bigger

SLIM PICKINGS
A LIKELY side-effect of the decline in venture capital is a reduction in syndication among venture capitalists.

Some smaller firms are seen as having survived off the rich pickings that have come their way through syndication. The concentration among larger, dominant players will inevitably reduce this process.

Reciprocity — the "I'll scratch your back" factor — has already declined as a stated reason for syndication. Many in the industry see a continued decline in annual investment from the peak year of 1989. The median estimate is that the industry will decline by between 21 per cent and 50 per cent.

funds increasingly could a larger share of the total committed by investors in the industry. Companies a track record of investors' internal rate turn expectations "are to experience more severe difficulties in obtaining new funding", according to the Warwick survey.

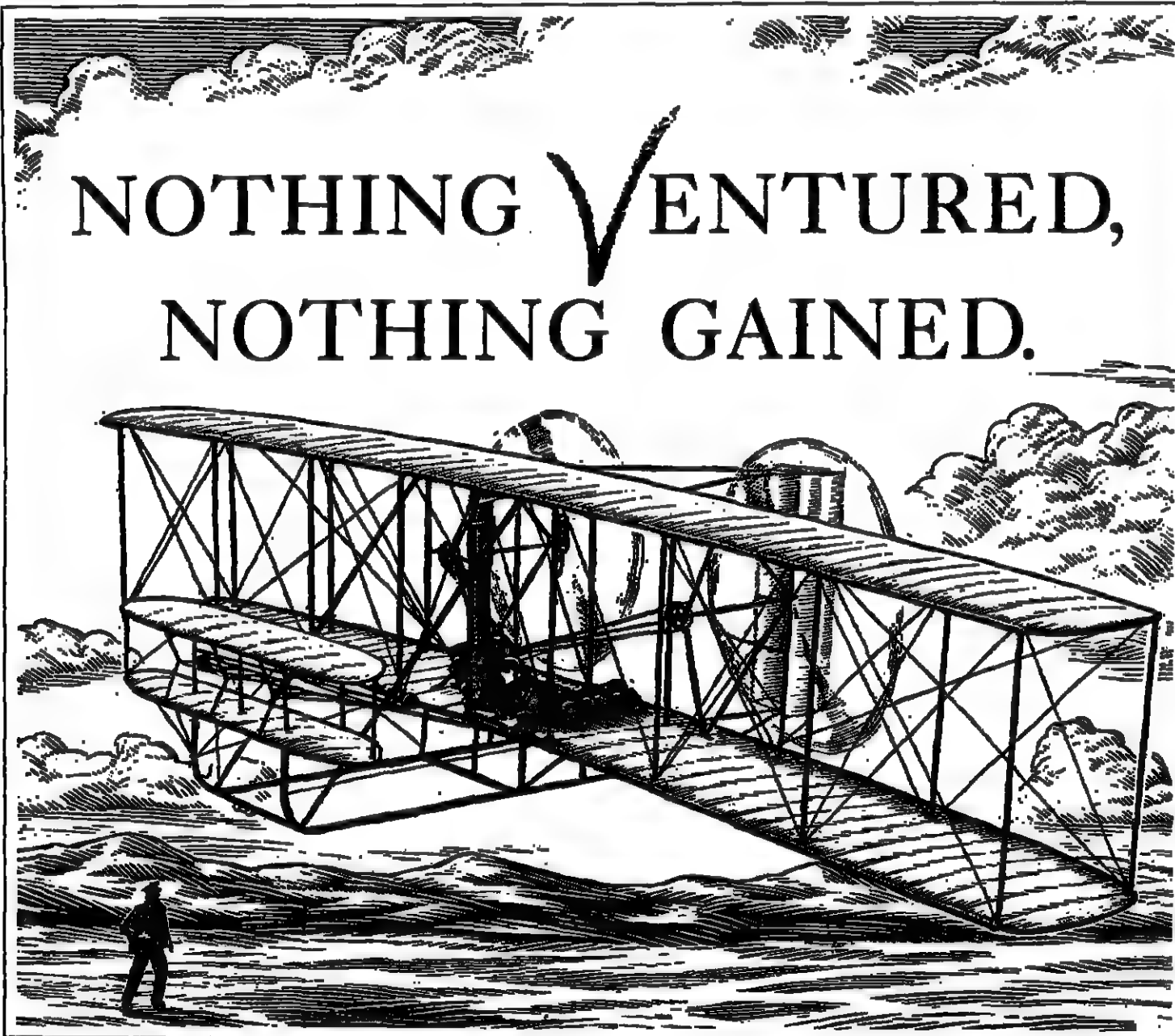
More than six out of respondents believe management buyouts remain the dominant form of venture capital over the next five years, taking half of committed funds in 1995. Start up and early stage deals are seen as broadly at their current level of 15 per cent of funds.

The survey shows a full and precocious industry on the brink of maturity stormy adolescence.

Rationalisation consolidation will undoubtedly follow as the peripheral players serious thought to motivation for being in the market. With the cess completed and the only returned to a track, the industry's confidence will return.

Many in the industry believe the period frenzied closing months Eighties was a necessary painful, element of the ing process, which will salutary reminder of the fundamental principles of venture capital investment many years to come.

But the return of that combination of easy and a soaring stock market could mean the lessons short lived.



NOTHING VENTURED, NOTHING GAINED.

There's no limit to what you can achieve with the right attitude — and the right support.

Orville Wright took to the skies over Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, in the first powered flight.

Chris Goring and the management team at August Systems raised £1 million in order to fund the expansion of their emergency fire and gas safety systems business in the UK and overseas.

Christopher Burnett achieved his goal of buying-out Silentnight Holdings' Upholstery Division through a mixture of equity and mezzanine provided by County NatWest Ventures and senior debt from our Finance Division.

And no sooner had Morris Bond and his fellow directors completed the complex demerger of the Beck Food Group than they raised £9.8 million in development capital to expand the company's manufacturing sites.

Orville Wright was supported not only by wire and canvas, but also by the skill and dedication of his brother Wilbur.

All of the other examples were backed by County NatWest Ventures.

In 1990, through our network of offices in London, Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, Leeds and Manchester, we invested no less than £75 million in over eighty businesses.

And since we led the majority of those transactions,

our skills in structuring and our ability to make an early commitment played an equally important role in helping our clients' plans to take wing.

This record goes some way to disprove the idea that buy-ins and buy-outs, and development capital investments, only make sense in a buoyant economy.

Quite the reverse. A time when prices are more realistic may well be a time which presents outstanding opportunities to managements with vision, ability and determination.

To help you imagine what you could achieve, we've prepared a 35-page brochure which gives detailed case histories of a wide variety of recent County NatWest Ventures investments.

For your copy, call Lynda Beveridge on (071) 375 5421, or write to her at County NatWest Ventures, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR.



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MANAGEMENT BUY-OUTS & BUY-INS ■ DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL ■ EXISTING SHARE PURCHASE

Needs of new growth all on stony ground

ayout by the
agement can
ve business
rt-ups of the
essary funds

he development of the
management buyout
was one of the great
successes of the British
community during the
Eighties. But many in
the industry are questioning
the search for ever
spectacular buyouts
the original purpose of
capital has been lost,
ost, obscured.

Buyout is widely seen as
silent mechanism for
ing management and
ing transfers of cor-
poration. But is it
venture capital?
management buyout
provided risk capital
development of en-
terprises? The
worryes the industry.

ent survey showed that
ent of leading venture
capitalists believe that the
future of the industry
is the lack of support
to start-up and early-
stage developments.

g the funding of high-
tech start-ups.

atest statistics suggest
management buyouts
to dominate overall
in unquoted equi-
ty companies.

a £1.4 billion invested
British Venture Capital
Association (BVCA) members
12 per cent went into
and early-stage devel-
opment. In 1989, the figure
per cent of £1.6 billion.

el Denny, the chair-
man of the BVCA, says that
by their nature, will
attract big money and
more relevant measure
number of investments.
1,316 investments by
members in the United
Kingdom last year, 26 per cent
at start-up or early stage.



Risky business: Michael Denny of the BVCA

But again the trend is not a
healthy one, because as in
1989 the figure was 38 per
cent.

Many theories are given for
the UK's relatively un-
impressive record in seed-
capital investment, particu-
larly in high-tech ventures.
One factor must be that during
the Eighties, investment in
management buyouts became
the venture capital industry's
proverbial licence to print
money.

The management team
being backed was, by its
nature, proven, experienced
and familiar with the com-
pany concerned.

With the booming economy
providing virtually guar-
anteed growth of at least 10
per cent a year and banks
falling over themselves to

vented from trading, an
unthinkable prospect for a
high-street bank. The risk,
given the size of the rewards
on offer, was too high.

Is the industry solely to
blame? Should the govern-
ment shoulder part of the
responsibility for encouraging
the development of the cor-
porate winners of tomorrow?

Mr Denny believes so.
Wearing his Northern Ven-
ture Managers hat, Mr Denny
has been behind the devel-
opment of a 12-strong chain of
regional venture capitalists all
committed to providing seed
capital around the country.
But he says venture capital-
ists cannot be expected to
provide the managers' costs as
well as the start-up capital.

Some source of funding
has to be found to
provide management
remuneration so that
the venture capital can all be
invested. Mr Denny argues
that this is where government
money can play a role. The
idea of government subsidies
for management costs in start-
ups has been taken by the
BVCA to two Whitehall de-
partments over the past 18
months.

"By February," Mr Denny
says, "we were quite certain
that the idea did not have
government acceptance. It
was not an objective that tied
in with government philo-
sophy."

While these problems re-
main, start-ups and early-stage
investments are likely to re-
main the poor relations of
management buyouts and
buy-ins.

Some in the industry argue
that two separate but affiliated
venture capital bodies would
serve Britain's entrepreneurs
better than a unified BVCA.

The wall of hype erected by
the big management buyout
companies often makes it
difficult for the start-up
specialists to be heard.

A body representing the
interests of the true venture
capitalists may help redress
the balance.

£2m equity injection funds Knickerbox High Street expansion

Knickerbox, the £2m equity injection funds, have not oversteered themselves.

Knickerbox, which got well, even if in the current climate, we are seen to be going against the trend.

Candover are better known for their leadership in the management buy-out market, they have organised over 50 buy-outs and buy-ins and investments worldwide, ranging in size from £1 million to £275 million, as well as providing development capital for small companies.

Despite market conditions, Candover might be able to provide the capital injection you need.

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Who's next?

Candover manage some £400m funds for equity investment. The current economic climate is creating exciting opportunities for buy-outs and buy-ins. We are continually discussing potential opportunities with companies, managers and advisors. If you think you could be next, contact Roger Brooke or Doug Fairservice on 071 489 9848.

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Equity Underwriters

British Coal Pension Funds
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Barclays Bank Pension Fund

Senior Debt underwritten by

National Westminster Bank



Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte acted as investigating accountants and Nabarro
Nathanson as Solicitors to the Company and Equity Underwriters.

All management buyouts are the same. Different.

Unfortunately many venture capitalists apply
the same set of rules to every financing requirement.

At Lloyds Development Capital, we treat each
business proposal differently.

We'll create a financing package specifically
tailored to suit your individual circumstances.

That's why we select people who are highly
competitive and driven by the challenge of each
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And who are flexible enough to deal with every
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It's their innovative way of thinking that provides
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team. If you do well, so do we.

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Large firms urged to pay promptly

By DEREK HARRIS

WHETHER the Confederation of British Industry will eventually throw its weight behind a campaign to introduce legislation to penalise late payment by big companies for goods and services supplied by small businesses, is anyone's guess.

A working party, being formed at the moment, might not be able to hammer out a remedial policy before the summer. In the meantime, driven by the rigours of recession, big companies are showing an increasing propensity to pass their cashflow problems to small suppliers, those least able to take such treatment.

Tom O'Connor, chairman of the CBI's smaller firms council (SFC), said late payment was probably the greatest single concern of small businesses. Claims that late payments are endangering the survival of nearly one in five small businesses have prompted the SFC to make the issue its top priority for this year.

As a result, there is likely to be moral pressure on CBI members, who are already being encouraged by Sir Brian Corby, the CBI president, to stick to good payment practices. Big companies that do so are being asked to set out their procedures so that they can be seen to lead by example.

However, some members believe legislation is the only option left. Mr O'Connor has doubts about the effectiveness of legislation, saying terms should be left to

individual companies. Legislation might set out a longer term for contracts than might otherwise be achieved, putting greater pressure on small businesses while only bringing to book the occasional delinquent big company.

Mr O'Connor said many smaller businesses could help themselves by improving their financial management, including tightening credit controls.

Pressure from Europe may speed up the legislation bandwagon but, for the moment, one of the most useful ideas being pursued by the SFC is to encourage closer working partnerships between big and small companies.



"It's an April shower"

If cookies be the food of love

By RODNEY HOBSON

CARRYING two buckets of frozen pastry mix on an early morning Tube seems an unpromising start for a small business. It is certainly less romantic than the name Younglove Jewel Cookies suggests.

Like many budding entrepreneurs, Lee Norlund found that unorthodox measures are called for if a new business is to succeed.

Now living in Swiss Cottage, London, Mr Norlund comes from California, but he fell in love with a Yorkshire girl, Bridget, now his wife, who was visiting America. He says: "We began a long-distance romance. I came over here to pursue her. I would save money, quit my job, and stay until the money ran out."

He was not a natural businessman, but was desperate to find a job in Britain. He says: "I had to create my own job. I had noticed cookies on sale here during previous visits and I knew I could make better with my grandmother's recipe. I thought if they could sell the ones in the shops, mine would surely be successful."

He put all his savings into chocolate chips and shipped six tons from America. He says: "Chocolate bars over here are fine but when you bake chocolate you are looking for different qualities. South American cocoa beans have a more robust flavour that stands up to cooking better than African beans."

He stored the chocolate in a wine warehouse, reasoning that a controlled temperature would suit



Taking a bite at business: Bridget and Lee Norlund tasting the wares at Younglove Jewel Cookies

his product. It took him six months to find the other ingredients for his cookie mix.

Mr Norlund realised that marketing was crucial. He found that small bakers were slow to respond to a new product, especially a foreign one. The head buyer at Fortnum and Mason was

also discouraging, mindful of the store's reputation for quality. So Mr Norlund took some of his cookie mix to the famous grocer's shop's head chef who baked it, liked it and put the cookies on the counter. The next day the shop placed an order.

Having a high-profile customer

helped attract other buyers, and Mr Norlund has changed bakeries several times to expand his operations.

He says: "I had no idea what it took to set up a business but I had confidence in the product and I did not think of the possibility that it would not work."

BRIEFINGS

WHEN the recession looms edge, bigger companies that have been cutting back on management strength could face a need for executive help. This is the belief of the Association of Temporary Interim Executive Services, which has produced its first yearbook. The association's ten member offer advice on interim management, leasing executives or a potentially providing executive help. One member is GMS Consultancy, which has a comprehensive database of more than 3,000 senior executives available as independent consultants and interim managers. GMS developed a six-and-a-half training workshop for executives wishing to train consultants. The next programme for executives aims to set up as consultants start May 12. More details can be obtained from GMS at 481 Street North, Dunstable, Bedfordshire. Telephone: 0582-666 Enquiries to Leonard A. ATIES, 36-38 Mortimer St London. Telephone: 071-3234

The closing date for the dusty department's Small Firm Award for Research Technology (Smart) scheme which aims to stimulate innovation in firms with fewer than 100 employees, is on April 12, year the number of awards has been increased from 150 to 200 with an improved maximum value of £45,000 for stage 1 (feasibility studies) and £60,000 for stage 2 (product development). Prototype and application forms are available from regional offices of the award and the Scottish, Welsh Northern Ireland offices.

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Dunwoody in sparkling form with 31-1 double

By MICHAEL SEELY, RACING CORRESPONDENT

RICHARD Dunwoody continued in inspired form on the opening afternoon of the Liverpool Grand National meeting yesterday when landing a double of over 31-1 on Aquilifer and Sparkling Flame.

The man of the moment was virtually handed the day's feature race, the Martell Cup Chase, on a plate as Peter Scudamore discarded Aquilifer in favour of the beaten Gold Cup favourite, Celtic Shot.

Yesterday's even money favourite cost one unfortunate backer £30,000 before finishing a well-beaten fourth after a bad mistake at the eleventh fence. However, Scudamore said: "I don't regret it. Celtic Shot gave me the biggest win of my career when winning the Champion Hurdle and I remained loyal to him."

Celtic Shot was not the only big name to disappoint in the Martell Cup. Arctic Call, the winner of the Hennessy last autumn, made too many serious jumping errors before being pulled up at the fifth fence from home.

From the first fence in the straight, Graham McCourt and Norton's Coin looked long odds on to record their first win together since the 1990 Cheltenham Gold Cup when moving easily alongside Aquilifer. But the raider from the Welsh valleys made an appalling blunder at the second fence from home and then virtually refused at the final jump.

Slogging on gamely for Dunwoody, Aquilifer eventually scrambled home by one and a half lengths from Norton's Coin.

Delighted by the success of his tactics, Dunwoody said: "Aquilifer jumped really well in the back straight. But I then steadied him up and took a pull because I've ridden Norton's Coin and know how much he hates being in front."

A crestfallen Sirell Griffiths confirmed Dunwoody's thinking. "It's very disappointing. But as I've often said, Norton's Coin does much better in a small field when his jockey can bury him."

Martin Pipe must now be in with a sporting chance of becoming the first National Hunt trainer to earn £1 million for his owners. Aquilifer's winnings of £17,062 have now carried the wizard of Wellington past the £900,000 mark.

Confirming that Scudamore would be on board the heavily

backed mudlark Bonanza Boy in tomorrow's Grand National, Chester Barnes, Pipe's assistant, said that no decision would be taken until declaration time today about Omeria, the winner of Monday's Irish Grand National.

"All we know for certain is that Adrian Maguire can't ride him again as he's not qualified."

If fitness had been the name of Dunwoody's game on Aquilifer, then the crescendo of controlled power he showed when driving Sparkling Flame up to challenge Esha Ness at the second fence from home in the Mumm Club Novices' Chase was equally remarkable. Striding clear, the Nicky Henderson-trained seven-year-old eventually beat Esha Ness by eight lengths.

Apart from Dunwoody, McCourt also rode two winners. In the opening Oddsians Hurdle, McCourt was seen at his strongest before driving the heavily backed 9-2 favourite, Merano, to the front close home for a narrow win over Ru Valentino and Leading Role.

Unfortunately, the stewards decided that McCourt had been too energetic and they suspended him for two days for using the whip too vigorously on the winner. The jockey's sentence is to run from April 13 to April 14.

In the Glenlivet Anniversary Hurdle, Chirkpar, runner-up to Oh So Risky at Cheltenham, was a short-priced favourite but could only finish sixth behind Montpelier Lad, whom Neale Doughty brought home two-and-a-half lengths clear of Runway Romance.

Both Brendan Powell and Lorcan Wier were injured in falls at the fifth flight. Powell was taken to Walton Hospital after being kicked in the stomach as was Wier, whose ribs were severely bruised in the fall. Wier was retained in hospital.

One of the most remarkable sights of the afternoon was that of Andrea Farrell driving 1-3 Henry past the post in the John Hughes Memorial Trophy five lengths ahead of Doughty on The Antares.

Mrs Farrell, the daughter of the winning trainer Peter Beaumont, is not the first woman to ride a winner over the enormous Grand National fences. Caroline Beasley already having won the Foxhunters' Trophy on Ellagarty in 1986.

Pitmans chase a glorious double

Garrison Savannah attempts to become only the second horse to win the Gold Cup and Grand National in the same year tomorrow at Aintree. Michael Seely finds Jenny Pitman and her jockey son, Mark, confident on the eve of the race

Jenny Pitman scrutinised Garrison Savannah carefully. An athletic, dark brown horse with an elegant head, the Cheltenham Gold Cup winner stood on the Mandown gallop at Lambourn. A strong south westerly wind with the soft rain across the top of the hill, was rustling the gelding's almost black mane and tail as he shifted restlessly from foot to foot.

The eight-year-old's air of robust well-being after his usual solitary work was obvious. He showed no signs of any ill-effects after that desperate struggle against The Fellow at Cheltenham, four weeks ago. "The next day he looked a bit like a man who's had a hard game of squash," the trainer said. "But he's come bouncing back and is as well as he was before the Gold Cup."

Garrison Savannah certainly faces a formidable task as he attempts to become the only horse apart from Golden Miller in 1934 to complete the Gold Cup-Grand National double in the same year.

The continuing wet weather at Aintree yesterday saw Garrison Savannah displaced as favourite for the first time by the proven soft-ground specialist, Rintus. However, Mark Pitman still had encouraging words for prospective backers of the supposed handicap certainty. "He's not just a good ground horse, although he prefers it that way. He'll go through the soft all right. After all, he acted in it at Haydock in December."

Those incredible scenes at Cheltenham when Jenny Pitman watched her son, Mark, give the stable its second Gold Cup win and make amends to the family, not only for Toby Tobias's defeat last year, but also for her former husband Richard's seconds on Pendil and Southsayer, were the stuff of legend.

Now, of course, Mark Pitman will be seeking to erase the bitter memory of those final strides in 1973 when his father and the mighty Crisp were finally collared by Brian Fletcher and the dogged Red Rum.

Even the sometimes-dramatic Mrs Pitman shies away from the thoughts of such heady emotions. "So much can go wrong. You could drive yourself mad just thinking about it. I'm going there with an open mind, just hoping and praying for the best."

On paper, Garrison Savannah has 16lb and upwards in hand of his opponents, as the National weights were framed before Cheltenham. But the reality lies in those four-and-a-half energy-sapping miles over 30 of the world's most daunting obstacles.

Cleverness and a certain cat-like agility, allied to boldness, are the



Blowing up a storm: Jenny Pitman watches Garrison Savannah in the run up to what she hopes will be a storming Grand National display

pre-requisites for survival at Aintree. And all that the world has seen of Garrison Savannah to date, has been the bravery and dash in the Gold Cup.

However, the trainer considers the stable's pride and joy to be the ideal type for the job. "I don't like those big, long-striding horses at Liverpool, that have got to stand off everything. Those Tingle Creek-like horses are brilliant, but the difference between being brilliant and being on the deck isn't much at Liverpool."

In 1983, Mrs Pitman had her first taste of fame and fortune in her own right when Corbiere won the National. "He was as clever as a monkey. He didn't want anyone telling him what to do. He had already made up his mind by the time he met his fences. 'Garry' is built like him. He's Corbiere in another jacket. He only stood off so far at the last two at Cheltenham, because Mark had to ask him for everything."

Michael Bowley, the trainer's son-in-law, rides the difficult-to-train Golden Freeze, who was having only his second run of the season behind Katabatic in the Queen Mother Champion Chase. When at his peak, two seasons ago,

he finished runner-up in the Mackeson Gold Cup and also successfully conceded 29lb to Four Tix over 3½ miles over the Midway at Liverpool.

"He ran well enough at Cheltenham and is in great shape," Mrs Pitman said. "He's an entirely different type to 'Garry'. He's very bold and could jump more in the style of Crisp. He's easier to ride on the track, but a real handful at home."

Team Challenge, the stable's third runner, has completed the course in the last two seasons and could make the first time lucky for Ben De Haan, the winning jockey on Corbiere.

Producing Garrison Savannah fit to win the Gold Cup without a run since the previous December must represent one of the finest training feats of Mrs Pitman's remarkable career. "He has only worked once with other horses since Haydock. I tightened the screws gently. Sometimes he disappointed and I had to loosen them a bit. In the paddock at Cheltenham I told the owners, 'I can't tell you exactly where he is, but he's fitter than he was at Haydock and his mind is so well

that he wants to fight the world'."

Jealous of her reputation as one of the country's top four trainers, Mrs Pitman is disappointed that, despite her prize-money haul of just under £350,000 this campaign, she has only saddled 37 winners compared with her personal record of 93 last season. "The virus has given us all nightmares. I used to go all evening without speaking a word and then get up in the night and roam around. In January we were struggling to find a runner. In February I was able to pick out a few, but it's only been in the last week or so that I've been able to pick out more or less what I want."

Mrs Pitman's expressive face radiates a calm beauty that comes from an inner strength and self-confidence that has seen her overcome so many hurdles. But, characteristically, she still complains about the effects of the recession. "People say I'm a survivor. They probably think that I don't bleed like anyone else. And that when anyone touches me, I'm as cold as a frog. I could have made life a lot easier for myself, but I've always stuck by my principles. All I can promise my owners is a square deal."

The trainer's long-term ambi-

tion is centred around Mark. "I'm very disappointed if he didn't. He's got that feel for a horse you can't manufacture. When he was ten or 11 he felt Artistic Prince and told me that the horse was over at the knee. I thought, 'cheeky little monkey', but he's right. I think he'll do better than because he'll be more diplomatic."

Whatever his future as a trainer, he deserves full marks for courage he has shown in return to the saddle so quickly, cracking his pelvis at Cheltenham.

Like his mother, the jockey that Garrison Savannah will well to Aintree. "I've ridden last two Nationals on Gainsa so far haven't got further than halfway. But I'm looking forward to riding 'Garry'. He gets plenty height at his fences, eyes then and is a natural jumper. He's the fastest thing on four legs, b gallops and can put himself right."

"You've got to have all that that's going. Someone can your horse down through no fault of its own. No one has done the double since 1934 but, who knows, it may be my turn on Saturday."

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Davis's durability crucial

By ROBERT KIRLEY

LOU Piniella, the Cincinnati manager, hopes his Reds can retain the World Series championship they won when they upset Oakland in four games last October. The major-league season begins on April 8 when the Reds host the Houston Astros.

"It wasn't a fluke," Piniella said of taking the title in his first campaign with the Reds. "This is a good little ball club." Nobody has repeated as champions since the 1977 and 1978 New York Yankees, for whom Piniella was a player. The Reds rely on strong starting pitching, but their best player, Eric Davis, an outfielder, has not recovered fully from an injury incurred in the World Series. His durability over the 162-game schedule will be crucial.

The Los Angeles Dodgers aim to overtake the Reds in the National League West. Darryl Strawberry signed with the Dodgers (\$20.2 million for five years) as a free agent after seven All-Star seasons with the New York Mets. The outfielder gives a powerful team another potent

bat. One of the biggest names in the game, Strawberry will want to impress in his home town. He, Eddie Murray and Kal Daniels are all capable of hitting more than 30 home runs and Mike Scioscia is among the leading catchers. Scioscia will be backed up by Gary Carter, an 11-time All-Star. Orel Hershiser and Tim Lincecum, if healthy, will give the Dodgers a superb starting rotation.

The San Francisco Giants splurged during the close season, signing the outfielder, Willie McGee (\$13 million), and pitchers Bud Black and Dave Righetti (\$10 million each) in an attempt to take on the Dodgers and the Reds.

In the National League East, the Chicago Cubs have good right-handed power and solid defense up the middle. They signed the free agent, George Bell, to a four-year, \$12.8 million deal.

Gary Scott, aged 22, who has never played above the middle level of the minor leagues, will be the third baseman on opening day. All of the pieces seem to be in place.

The Mets have erratic defense and their pitching, long their strength, has been hampered by injuries. Frank Viola, a 20-game winner last year, has bone chips in his left elbow and may have problems finishing the season. Less than a week into the exhibition season, another left-hander, Sid Fernandez, broke his wrist and will be out of action till mid-season.

In the American League East, the Toronto Blue Jays are vastly improved. They have pitching, speed and can score. Boston, led by the pitching of Roger Clemens, and the Baltimore Orioles could contend.

In the American League West, Oakland are still the best. Forget about their performance in the World Series last year. As usual, they will overwhelm opponents.

1991 PREDICTIONS: Cleveland wins the American League East; Chicago wins the National League West; Los Angeles wins the American League West; Toronto wins the American League East; Oakland wins the World Series; Oakland to beat Los Angeles.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL	RUGBY UNION
Barclays League Third division	Worcester v Cross Keys (7.00)
Tranmere v Rotherham	SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL: Wales v Ireland (6.30)
GIM Vauxhall Conference	RUGBY LEAGUE
Norwich v Colchester	BLACKBURN v Wakefield (7.00)
PONTING CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second division	Cardiff v Newport (7.00)
Worcester v Colchester	Widnes v Salford (7.00)
Worcester v Colchester	OTHER SPORT
Worcester v Colchester	SHOCKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (Golf, Co. Wick)
Worcester v Colchester	SWIMMING: Welsh Masters (Pontypool)

TRY THIS
Denise Tingey's suggestion for a sporting day out

HOCKEY: Nationwide Anglia Cup Day: The first mixed hockey international between England and Wales, organised by the Mixed Hockey Association (MHA), takes place as a curtain-raiser to the Nationwide Anglia Cup final on Sunday, and is being seen as an important step to promoting the sport in Britain.

Wales will be captained by Margaret Medlow, capped 84 times for her country, and now making a comeback to the international game after a four-year absence, while England take the field with former under-21 international, Richard Most, in charge.

HOCKEY

Lee displays a clearness of approach

VAL Lee, the England under-18 coach, does not best at the bush (Alex Ramsay writes).

Approaching this weekend's home countries under-18 tournament in Edinburgh, her aim is clear. "We expect to win and win in style," she said.

Fresh from their success in beating Wales, 5-0, at Wembley and Scotland, 3-0, in Disseldorf, England's women will be expected to continue the winning streak. "I'm not imagining these games are going to be easy," Lee said. "But nobody can deny with the English development programme, we should be stronger. We aim to score lots of goals and get three convincing wins."

The development programme is four years' old with players working up from under-16 and attending regional centres of excellence to prepare them for senior international level.

Farrell seeks record

By ROBERT KIRLEY

STEVE Farrell, who led from start to finish in last year's Star Trophy series of 12 road races, finds himself in the unaccustomed position of being without any points in the new season's competition (Peter Bryan writes).

The Stoke rider failed to score in last month's Essex grand prix, "lost" in the finishing bunch of 70 after making an unsuccessful victory bid a mile from the end when the sprint — and Star lead — was taken by Mark Gornall, the hill farmer.

Farrell will be chasing his first

points on Sunday in the grand prix international Beaconsfield. Victory was uppermost in his mind, hilly, 107-mile route. He of only two riders to have the race three times (1987 and 1990) and wants to go the record books as the first to succeed three years in succession.

His task will be formidable. The race includes Gornall brother Alan, Pete Longo, the 100-mile time trial pioner, and Paul Curran, who has been an amateur.

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10	(16)	2213-04	SHARP PD BUNTING 14 (9) (D) E Metcher N Henson 4-6-7	S Rowe	83
10	(18)	319100	SUSANNA'S SECRET 199 (F) (Mae M Kaleh) W Carter 4-8-5	T Williams	85
10	(19)	43144-0	FARMER JACK (D,F) (Mae N Moseley) M N Moseley 9-8-3	M Roberts	87
10	(20)	00910-2	CRONK'S COUNSEL 5 (D,F,3,5) (Cronk Gernages Lich) G Lewis 5-9-2	Paul Eddery	89
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SETTING: 13-2 Cronk's Courage, 7-1 Suzanne's Secret, 8-1 Amiga Manor, 10-2 Sharp P Smooth, 10-1 Bayview, Prohibition, 11-1 Mazon, 12-1 Aughted, Respectable Jones, 14-1 No Quarter Given, 16-1 Others.					
1996 JOKUST 7-5 D Dawson (12-7-1) K Davids 25 nm					

Swordbearers of Japan duel for Olympics

Nagano

THE helicopter lifts you noisily up above a city of 350,000, shivers across the dense apple-fields and the surrounding fur-clad hills that remind you of *Mad Max* and there, rising in front of you, are the Japanese Alps, so named by a British mining engineer in 1881, and beyond them the shimmering Sea of Japan and the Soviet Union's frozen north.

This garden-style prefecture of western Japan annually attracts 96 million visitors, some ten per cent of those to winter sport. The beauty of the rivers, the agricultural plain and the mountain landscape are going to cause a headache for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 71 days' time, the figure in flashing red that reminds citizens in the city centre how many days remain until the vote is taken for the 1998 Winter Olympic Games host city.

Having seen all but Sochi in the Soviet Union of the six candidates, there is no doubt in my mind that the IOC has an unenviable task in selecting between three outstand-

DAVID MILLER looks at the challenge mounted by an outstanding Japanese city in which they shoot the silver and bronze medal winners

ing venues: Ostersund in Sweden, Salt Lake City and Nagano. It is a tribute to the prestige of the Olympics that so many communities wish to get into the act, and that so few can. This is a cruel competition, in which they shoot the silver and bronze medal winners.

If Ostersund's claim is that Sweden is bidding for the fifth time, and Salt Lake's that it has possibly the world's most perfect slopes, that of Nagano is that it offers the Olympic movement a special opportunity for expansion, and that is supposed to be one of the prime criteria for bidding cities.

"If Nagano stages the Games, we will have over two million spectators during the two weeks,"

Tasaku Tsukada, the mayor, said yesterday. "That would be a 25 per cent increase on the 1.6 million who attended Calgary in 1988, and would be part of a process that would establish Nagano prefecture as the winter sports centre of Eastern Asia."

The southwest Japanese hinterland of major cities alone has a population of 70 million. Nagano is committed to building several of its proposed new stadiums regardless of whether it is nominated in Birmingham in June. The achievements of Midori Ito, the tiny Japanese former world champion, would become a more plausible ambition of millions of youngsters from Manila to Pyongyang in North Korea.

Every successful candidate needs leadership. Ostersund has Bo Victor, Salt Lake has the irrepressible Tom Welch. Nagano has not only Tsukada and Goro Yoshimura, the prefecture governor, whose only restraint is their as yet limited but growing grasp of the English language, but also Sochiro Yoshida, the deputy chair-

man, whose family for 13 generations were the swordsmiths of Japan until this century when they expanded into that more versatile commodity, commercial fuchs.

The Japanese tackle their problems head on. While British administrators at times have difficulty persuasively speaking their own tongue, Nagano, under Tsukada's leadership, has hugely increased its teaching of English at junior and middle school level during the last eight years.

In 1989, Tsukada was re-elected with 90 per cent majority under the Olympic bid banner. "I study, every day, myself," he says, haltingly, with a self-effacing smile.

Yoshida, aged 46, fluent in the language after an economics degree at Michigan State University, is quietly battling against the more extrovert Welch to become the Peter Ueberroth of 1998. His persistent circumnavigation has helped bring 47 IOC members to Nagano, and he hopes that figure will be approaching 70 before the final presentation in Birmingham.

Yet he is aware that, in clarity

and intelligibility in a difficult foreign language, his team will be up against a superior level of communication by Sweden and the United States. "We are shy because of our language [problem]," Tsukada says. "Our country needs better communication, and that is why we are promoting the Games. Sport can bridge the gap."

It notably did so in 1964, with the Tokyo Summer Games at the start of the Japanese postwar economic explosion; and it did so for Seoul in 1988. Yoshida and Haruo Kakeyoshi, his executive chairman, whose Hachijun Bank has a branch at Old Street, London, will be attempting to convince the IOC that a major financial foothold in the East can be strengthened by the second oriental Winter Games.

Nagano has aimed to stage the Games since the Thirties, but Sapporo, 900 kilometres to the north, was preferred by the National Olympic Committee, and won the IOC bid for 1972 against Banff, Lahti (Finland) and Salt Lake when the decision was taken

in 1966. Only recently has Nagano's road/rail communication become adequate, with a 180mph bullet train link to be completed by 1987, reducing the Tokyo to Nagano journey from three hours to 80 minutes.

Several critical questions must be considered by the IOC: on the television income, if another return to the United States is to be resisted after Atlanta's nomination, and on the quality of Alpine courses at adjacent Hakuba and Shiga Kogen, even though the peaks are 3,000 metres plus with three-metre snowfalls.

Japan's Alpine events in the morning are better for US television than European schedules, the 13-hour time difference giving evening viewing the previous day. But local evening figure skating, a fundamental element, would be out of viewing phase. There is, too, the suspicion that courses might have to be altered subsequently, after Albertville's manipulation for next year, that seemed insignificant. I would not wish to be an IOC member faced with the choice.

CRICKET

Australia look to Reid to revive fortunes in Test

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN PORT OF SPAIN

AT SOME time or other during the third Test match between West Indies and Australia, which starts here this morning, there will probably be some rain. As England discovered to their cost a year ago, there usually is. But it was pleasant enough yesterday as the Australians gave anxious consideration to the combination which would give them their best chance of getting back into the series.

Reid is sure to return, but the discarding of Stephen Waugh and Matthews' ineffectiveness (he had gone for 100 overs without a Test wicket when he took one at Georgetown) has left them without a contributing all-rounder and therefore short of balance. They wish, for the same reason that England often do, that it was a 12-a-side game: they would like to find room for an extra batsman (Stephen Waugh) but to do so would leave them short of bowling.

The Australians have spent the last week trying to persuade themselves that the West Indians will not play as well again as they did in the second Test, nor they themselves as badly. Of the three previous Test matches between the sides - at Sydney, Adelaide and Kingston - Australia had won the first and had the better of the other two, while here in the one-day series, West Indies had been made to look in some need of an overhaul.

Yet in the Georgetown Test, even on a pitch with no

bounce to it, Australia were as much outplayed, in all departments, as England ever were in Australia between November and February. So how reliable a guide is what happened there to what may be expected to happen from now on? Is Bobby Simpson, the Australian coach, right when he calls that a "one-off game"? Or will West Indies' victory have renewed the vitality and spirit which they need to be seen more consistently at their best?

The timing of the Georgetown result could hardly have been more significant. Before that match the West Indian players, not least Richards, were under mounting pressure, so were their selectors. From all the islands came calls for change, prompted by the loss of the one-day series and an apparent need for new blood.

These have now died down. No side has ever come back from being a Test match behind to win a series in the West Indies, though Len Hutton's, in 1953-4, did draw level after losing the first two Tests.

Australia are looking to Reid to revive their fortunes and have identified two areas at least in which there has to be some rethinking. First, they can see how much too submissively they batted in their first innings at Georgetown. They took their tempo from that of the West Indians, who spent the first day and a half slowing the game down by every trick in the trade. Dean

Jones, for example, who is usually ebullient was unusually subdued. Simpson has advised him, this time, to go in and play his game, though that, of course, is more easily said than done.

Then there was Australia's bowling, so shot to pieces by Richardson's fearless assault. This was an innings by Richardson which deserved to win a Test match and did so. The Australians thought he was lucky. But that was not as I saw it. It was a classic example of carrying the attack, and the Australians are professional enough to be more prepared for the next such incursion.

They have thought enough about how and where to bowl. When it came at Georgetown their bowlers, unlike their opponents, gave batsmen all together too much wicket.

The Australians look to me as though they may be getting stale. I hope not - but it would be hardly surprising if they were, after six months of more or less uninterrupted cricket. For the last 13 years their captain has spent the equivalent of every sixth day playing in a Test match or a one-day international for Australia. The next, starting this morning - his 123rd Test appearance - he may well see as the most important of all.

WEST INDIES (probable): J A Richards (captain), D L Haynes, C G Greenidge, R B Richardson, C L Hooper, A L Logan, P D Brown, C A Antrose, J A Marshall, P Patterson, C A Walsh.

AUSTRALIA (probable): A B Border (captain), G R Marsh, M A Taylor, D C Boon, D M Jones, M E Waugh, S R Waugh, G Healy, C J McDermott, S A Reid, I G Hughes.



Grounds for optimism: Daryl Foster, Kent's new coach, at the club's Canterbury grounds yesterday

Kent go down under for help

By IVO TENNANT

AS IS the modern way, Kent has turned not to one of their own kind to resolve their recent lack of success, but to help from overseas. Daryl Foster, who has an impeccable record of success with Western Australia, has joined them to counter what the county have called "a lack of purpose and direction".

Mark Benson, Kent's new captain, has already described

a good and a great player.

In 17 seasons with Western Australia, Foster, aged 52, has coached them to eight Sheffield Shield titles. This, for a man who never played first-class cricket and regards that as a handicap, Dennis Lillee has such a respect for Foster that he takes him to India twice a year for coaching at his foundation for fast bowlers.

Foster intends to emphasise three aspects of Australia's cricket against England in the winter. "Players like Dean Jones were adept at picking out fielders with bad arms. Australia probably collected 20 extra runs a day through sharp running between the wickets and saved a further 20 runs a day through their fielding."

He has strong views on "sledging", the verbal abuse of batsmen. "It should have no part in the game. Lillee's competitiveness made him the great player he was and he was a significant factor in Western Australia's success but I am sure if he had his time again he would not do some of the things he did."

Kent's playing staff have had their share of money from the county's sponsors, Blue Circle, cut from £20,000 in 1990 to £7,200 this year. The county's total sponsorship is £60,000, the same as last year.

This decision has upset the players but Peter Edgeley, Kent's chairman, said that incentives had been introduced, based on

performances. "Australia does seem to have made more progress than England in the science of the game. For instance, back injuries can now be overcome properly. All training must be specific to cricket," he said.

SNOOKER

Champion goes down to Taylor

By STEVE ACTESON

DENNIS Taylor, beaten 7-1 by Stephen Hendry in a league match on Saturday, exacted revenge yesterday by defeating the world champion 5-2 in the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters quarter-finals at Giffis, Co. Kildare.

Taylor's ability to punish Hendry errors was broken down of 54, 43, 32 and 39 took him close to the winning line; the fact that he crossed it, however, was due to a hefty slice of Irish luck.

Taylor attempted to lash the final pink into the yellow pocket but the ball doubled first the length and then the width of the table before dropping into the top right-hand pocket as the world No. 10 also gained perfect position on the winning black.

"I couldn't believe it when that pink went in but Stephen missed a lot of shots in that last frame which proves that the pressure can get to you even if you are world champion," Taylor said. He had not beaten Hendry since 1987.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: D Taylor (N) 10-5 S Hendry (S), 5-2. Wednesday last result: Preliminary rounds: N Doherty (E) 10-0 M Murray (N), 5-0.

RUGBY UNION

Shelford awaits the catalyst

By DAVID HANDS

ONE of Wayne Shelford's earliest experiences as a playing member of Northampton was the sight in October, from the Edge Hall Road stand, of his new club being beaten 60-0 by Bath in a league match. "They looked a well-drilled side," he said laconically. "Good backs to complement their forward pack with a catalyst at scrum half in Dewi Morris."

The catalyst and his cohorts arrive at Northampton tomorrow hoping for a place in the final of the Pilkington Cup. Orrell, the only club with a realistic hope of staying with Bath in the league, have never played in a cup final before and would love to occupy a similar stage to that achieved by their rugby league friends down the road at Wigan; but then, Northampton have never been to Twickenham either and Shelford would enjoy helping them there.

Shelford, however, finds the yo-yoing fixture standards frustrating. "Every time we come up against a non-league

Not that the former New Zealand captain and No. 8 anticipates playing at Twickenham on May 4, even if Northampton are successful. He would prefer to be part of the All Blacks squad which will play there against England in the opening match of the 1991 World Cup in October, and to that end he flies back to Auckland in mid-April to challenge for his old place.

He does not anticipate a return before next season, though negotiations are in train to bring him to Northampton if, at the age of 33, he finds the New Zealand selectors do not require his services. Northampton, certainly, have benefited from his presence. Antidotes have improved, there is much more concentration in training, everything becomes more business-like, Barrie Corless, the club's rugby manager, said.

Shelford, however, finds the yo-yoing fixture standards frustrating. "Every time we come up against a non-league



Shelford: Rare ability

side - the Mickey Mouse matches I call them - the attitude isn't there," he said. "The coach can't get continuity going in the way you play if five or six players are changed from one week to the next. Northampton could be a very good

side but they haven't realised their potential yet. When they do, as they will need to on Saturday, they will realise there is another level they can achieve."

"The standard of club football here is higher than in New Zealand. It's on a par with our national second division or lower first division provincial teams and Northampton, after winning their second-division matches quite attractively last season, are coming up against experienced campaigners in the first division now and learning to live with that."

"On Saturday we will be underdogs, the way we have been playing lately, but on the day it's 15 against 15 and the bounce of the ball - we must come out firing."

Shelford has the ability, rare to English players, of being capable of re-directing any game in which he plays. "It's the little things he does which allow other players to do their job more effectively," Corless said.

Shelford, however, finds the yo-yoing fixture standards frustrating. "Every time we come up against a non-league

Selectors to look closer at Ryan

By DAVID HANDS

DEAN Ryan, who has not been named in either touring party to Australia or England's of London's - has been requested by the England selectors to play in the second row for Wasps against Cardiff at Sudbury tomorrow.

Ryan won his two caps at No. 8 but plays much of his representative rugby at flanker. England's tour party left two vacancies behind the grand slam locks, Dooley and Ackford, and yesterday London named a party of 24 for five matches in Australia in May, leaving gaps at lock and blind-side flanker.

The national and divisional selectors will clearly watch Ryan this weekend and again next Saturday when Orrell meet Wasps in the league.

The problem is to balance Ryan's undoubted lineout potential against his ability as a tight forward.

Nigel Redman, the expert coach, Bath lock, is already underlining in my view - not to have been named in the England party for which candidates include Sean O'Leary, also of Wasps, and David Cusani (Oxford).

London, the divisional champions and sponsored by Silk Cut Gallagher International, will be led by David Pegler, the former England 8 captain.

LONDON TOUR PARTY: Backs: 6 Phipps (Bath), 8 Thorne (Gloucester), 9 Redman (Gloucester), 10 Collins (Gloucester), 11 Cough (Wasps), 12 Thompson (Gloucester), 13 Evans (Richmond), 14 Woodman (Gloucester), 15 Gregory (Gloucester), 16 Barber (Gloucester), 17 Jones (Gloucester), 18 Davies (Gloucester), 19 Gifford (Gloucester), 20 A. N. Oiler, 21 Dean (Gloucester), 22 Ryan (Wasps), 23 Cusani (Oxford), 24 Langhorn (Gloucester), 25 Clarke (Gloucester).

Pocklington trio earns representative reward

POCKLINGTON, who prevented the triumphant Silcock team from winning every match with a 3-3 draw, saw three of their side gain representative honours while enjoying good results (Michael Stevenson writes).

They won nine out of 14 matches, scoring 244 points and conceding 108. Doreen Edwards played for Yorkshire, the North and England, Sean Gurvey propped for Yorkshire and his partner, Kevin Robinson, also made the Yorkshire squad. Belmont Abbey again did

well, winning 12 and losing four of their 16 matches. They beat Pontypool College, St Cyprian's, Malvern and Dover and fielded a balanced side with a powerful pack and fast, elusive backs.

KES Birmingham particularly enjoyed their victories against Denstone (14-10), Ellesmere (15-7), KE Aston (15-0) and Loughborough GS (6-4). They won 13, drawing one and losing four of their 18 matches.

Lancaster BGS overcame a poor start to finish with eight wins and six defeats from their 14 matches, scoring 270 points to 163 conceded.

BOXING

Benn has banished the bad for good

By SRIKUMAR SINGH

THE swagger has gone on step of Nigel Benn. The World Boxing Organisation champion stopped the "pale" Robbie Sims by him with a left hook seventh round at the Yvonne on Wednesday night. He himself struck down a triton yesterday.

He did not want to be any more as the Dark Debutant for the last three years made a career out of boxing and bad-mouthing his opponents outside the ring as on the agony in it. I admitted to feeling him.

"I want to be a firm now I have a wife. Le Eubank, the bad he now is," he said.

"I don't want to be the Dark Debutant," he has got all that aggression of my system. With a that I had to live up to called me a junkyard dog knew he was trying to up but I wasn't going to.

I was really frightened I went into the ring, know how many times to Allah," he said, himself. "I knew that would get me up for the realised my career was line and defeat could I want to be scared again on being scared."

Benn, who boxed in a trolled manner behind for five rounds, was fit joys of boxing. "I remember this as a satisfying fight. It really dealt out of me. Before the fight I was nervous and have nothing left into the ring."

He revealed some touches in the third nice uppercut and in a double left hook. But his boxing had little pe than to warm him launching the old Benn.

He is not a polished a Wilfred Benitez or Palomino, who can i class his knockout pu still boxing. To knock out, Benn has to rev two-handed onslaught.

The bout reminds Mike Tyson against Thomas: Tyson was anywhere matching Thomas, when in round he told Kevin his trainer, he was got his way and Kildane was the same with the fifth.

Benn has not yet his next opponent. B of preference is Chris Michael Watson, Jackson, the World Council champion.

ROWING

Eton p courts at Dorr

By MIKE ROSE

ETON College is sub planning application for a new rowing pond on the river annually, Dorset on land own college.

Britain has only 16 metre courses of international standard, at Nottingham, Strathclyde, Ousemead and at the River Users Group Thames were led by pleasure craft. Eton's head of rowing is well by national second year both the Sports Council Amateur Rowing Association support the proposal.

It would be used by 600 rowers and by men and schools in the Valley, something sup the River Users Group Thames were led by pleasure craft. Eton's head of rowing is well by national second year both the Sports Council Amateur Rowing Association support the proposal.

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SPORT

League anxious that power will transfer to FA

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

SIX MONTHS ago, the Football League suggested that the game in England should speak with one voice. That idea promises to be put into practice sooner than the League imagined, but not in the manner it had foreseen. By next season, the Football Association's position as the lone governing body could be so strong as to be indisputable.

On Monday, the FA Council, as well as discussing the merits of the League's proposals, is to be presented with a blueprint for football. Produced originally in December by Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive, it is known to be extensively amended since.

The League fears that, far from being a straight forward counter proposal to refine the structure and organisation of the game, the amended document could contain the most radical plans ever put forward.

Instead of agreeing to form a partnership and share the balance of power, Kelly could insist that the FA alone hold the ultimate responsibility and dictate future policy.

If the suspicions of the League's officials are correct, by June they could be merely one voice among many answering to the FA.

The Council is not empowered to accept either of the proposals. It can recommend only that one of them be put before an extraordinary general meeting, for which 52 days' notice must be given.

The League recognises that its option is the outsider.

Bill Fox, the League's president, asked if he could be given a preview of the blueprint. "It has nothing to do with you," he was told. "It is our response to your proposals and you will become involved later on." Implicit within the frosty response is a clear indication of which proposal

will be favoured. In an attempt to steal Kelly's thunder, League officials have stated their case in seven counties and earlier this week to invited journalists. They argue that there must be equality in an enlarged executive committee. In other words, they should be offered six of the 12 planned seats.

They are prepared to concede the chairmanship, and with it the casting vote, to the FA for an experimental period of two years. "We are not questioning the FA's right to be the governing body," Fox said yesterday, "but we feel we should have an input into the general policy."

The FA is thought to be considering giving the League both additional new seats and raising its representation to four. That could widen the rift between the two bodies.

"If it is not 50-50 we can't carry the 92 League clubs," he said. "If the Council thinks that everything is rosy, then so be it. The problem is that some senior members of the FA are entrenched. We want to take the game forward into the next century. The blueprint may be the answer. We don't know. We would accept it but, unless there is equality, it would show that the FA is not interested in progressing. A great opportunity would have been missed. It would be not so much status quo as a step backwards."

Yet members of the League's own management committee have recently been responsible for introducing two retrogressive ideas. The concept of the Zenith Data Systems Cup was as crass a notion as restoring the first division to 22 clubs next season.

"Increasing the size of the first division was wrong," David Dent, the League's

secretary, said. "We know it's wrong, the FA knows it's wrong, but neither of us was strong enough to stop it. If there was equal representation, we would have said it was a non-starter. If anything, we would have reduced it."

Unwittingly, Dent was condemning his own organisation. The FA can justifiably argue that if the League cannot control its own self indulgence or prevent public bickering among its committee members, it does not deserve to be allowed to hold half of the reins.

Football has paid dearly for the divisive approach. "We know that if there was equality, totality of sponsorship would bring in considerable sums of money at all levels," Arthur Sandford, the League's chief executive, said. It is no exaggeration to suggest that, without affecting present sponsorships, more than £25 million would immediately be made available.

Kelly would presumably have to convince the clubs, especially Arsenal, Everton, Liverpool, Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur, that the FA can on its own attract such huge sums.

Fifa, the world's governing body, and the government, among others, would welcome a united front. Speeding up the process of modernisation, would enhance the nation's chances of staging the European championship in 1996.

The League's representatives claim that if they had not taken the initiative last October, "nothing would have happened." Ironically, if they had maintained their silence they might next season have retained a louder and more prominent voice.

Hodde moves in, page 37



Aquifer (right) battles it out with Norton's Coin after clearing the last fence in the Martell Cup Chase, at Aintree yesterday, before going on to win

The Thinker put down after freak accident

By RICHARD EVANS

THE Thinker, winner of the snowbound Cheltenham Gold Cup in 1987 and a well-backed outsider for tomorrow's Seagram Grand National, died following a freak accident at home yesterday.

The tragedy cast a shadow over the opening day of the annual Aintree meeting, which was accentuated when Smith's Cracker was killed in the sixth race.

Mark Pitman, rider of Smith's Cracker, was catapulted from the saddle when the hurdler fell and broke his neck but the young jockey emerged unscathed. The fall came less than three weeks after Pitman was taken to hospital with a cracked pelvis and bad bruising incurred in a fall at the Cheltenham festival.

On an incident-packed day at Aintree, where there were 12 fallers, Brendan Powell was taken to hospital under police escort after being kicked in the stomach when Beau Rou fell in the Glenlivet Anniversary Hurdle. Although he returned later to the course, he suffered severe stomach pains when having a drink and is thought to be suffering from a perforated stomach.

The Thinker, Arthur Stephenson's veteran chaser, shattered a hind leg and had to be put down while cantering

back after an early morning gallop at Bishop Auckland. Third in the 1989 Grand National when carrying top weight of 11st 10lb, the 13-year-old had been heavily supported over the past few days from 33-1 down to 16-1. The highlight of his 38-race career was winning the Cheltenham Gold Cup which was nearly postponed due to heavy snow showers. He won 11 races, all chases, and more than £135,000 in prize-money.

Strong winds and occasional heavy showers buffeted Liverpool yesterday and trainers of National horses needing good ground, including last year's winner, Mr Frisk, were in a quandary last night over whether to run them.

Gordon Richards, trainer of 6-1 favourite Rims, has no such doubts or worries and was full of confidence about his chances after winning the Glenlivet Anniversary Hurdle with Montpelier Lad. "I have got the form, the right weight and jockey and I have got the horse right. Rims is top of the pops," he said.

Rims, third last year on ground firmer than he liked, will have a final career this morning. "I didn't have him as well last year as I do this year," Peter Scudamore plans to ride Bonanza Boy and with

the going on the National course reported by jockeys to be on the soft side, support for the dual Welsh National winner continued yesterday and he is now a firm 8-1 third favourite.

Docklands Express was cut from 25-1 to 16-1 by Coral after substantial support, including one bet of £1,500. The bookmakers also trimmed Garrison Savannah, winner of last month's Cheltenham Gold Cup, from 8-1 to 7-1 after accepting two £2,000 bets.

William Hill reported backing for three outsiders and halved Golden Minstrel's odds to 50-1, chopped Crammer from 40-1 to 33-1 and cut Ten of Spades from 25-1 to 20-1.

With the ground officially good to soft on the National course, Won't Be Gone Long is now a doubtful starter. If he does not make the line-up, Jamie Osborne will ride Master Bob, while John White is booked for Ten of Spades. Mr Frisk will be declared to run this morning but a final decision about his participation, dependent on the weather, will be left to the last minute. Tracey Bailey, wife of the chaser's trainer said.

Pitman's chase, page 36
Inspired Dunwoody, page 36
Race cards, page 37

Dick demands loyalty from top performers to Turin despite c

FRANK Dick, the national director of coaching, yesterday called for unprecedented punishment of top athletes who refuse to compete for Britain in important team championships.

If his proposal is accepted, Liz McColgan, who finished third in the recent world cross-country championship, could be barred from competing in the world championships in Tokyo in August because of her decision on Wednesday to reject a place in Britain's team for the European Cup in Frankfurt in June.

"What I want to have clearly established is that when the nation needs you, you shouldn't walk away," Dick said.

Dick sent a letter to other officials yesterday, recommending that athletes who turned down selection for team events like the European and World Cups "should not expect to be considered for selection" for the next important individual championship.

But the recommendation, which will be debated by selectors within the next few weeks, is bound to spark controversy within the sport. Eamonn Martin, the Commonwealth 10,000 metres champion, immediately

responded. "It smacks of blackmail," he said.

McColgan, speaking her present training in Florida, hit back saying it "stupid" and "will not be blackmail."

But McColgan said though she had turned the 10,000 metres place was prepared to run second-string event, the metres, in Frankfurt, always said I'm prepared to do the 3,000 if they want," she said. He Yvonne Murray, the European 3,000 metres Split last year and won precedence at that time.

Saddened by McColgan's decision and determined Britain field the best possible in Frankfurt said he believed at Britain's other performers had a "stability to the mark compete."

"I shall discuss the with the British Boardman and selectors with to proposing that if a chooses not to represent her country on an which clearly has his own team priority, it athlete should not be considered for the major championships have similar high priority individuals," Dick said.

Proctor steps in as guiding hand

By MARTIN SKEARBY

MIKE Proctor, the former South African all-rounder, arrived yesterday at Northamptonshire, where he becomes director of cricket on a three-year contract, intent on giving the club the direction it has been lacking in recent years.

Proctor, aged 44, said: "When I was offered the opportunity to return to English county cricket I jumped at the chance because my 13 years at Gloucestershire were the happiest of my life. I loved the county scene, the camaraderie and the English style and it will be a pleasure to make a contribution to this team which, on paper, is a very good one."

"At first glance it would seem that they have lacked direction since their four county championship wins all came when Allan Lamb was captain. When he was away on England duty they appeared to lose their way and I am here to put them right."

Proctor's distinguished career with Western Province, Natal and Gloucestershire produced more than 1,400 wickets at 19 runs each and he averaged almost 40 with the bat. But he is as much remembered for his redoubtable spirit and lion-hearted attitude and that is what Northamptonshire will want

to rub off on their tea. "We have always been an over the wicket every three," the captain, said, "good but it is non-pro and those breezy, blades don't mean matches. We hope to steady the ship and get better all round behind Proctor, looking

Proctor, looking side which includes internationalists, Wayne Kevin Curran, Greg, as well as Lamb. "I believe cricket is game and everyone work for one another it enjoyable and such he said. "You have disciplined and produce to win in all competition first sight it seems to Northamptonshire I learn to bite the bullet stuck in. It also appears have lost direction they really should be things. That is now up Northamptonshire hefty wage bill, by Covendale, the club's new manager, said: "By planning we have we have a team working. Mike Proctor has been brought in to turn talent into a team carrying off major titles."

Dispute nears an end

THE long-running dispute that has brought the Indian cricket season to a standstill moved a step nearer to a resolution yesterday (Simon Wilde writes). A Patiala judge ruled that the result of the Ranji Trophy preliminary match between Delhi and Punjab, which Delhi won by nine wickets in January,

should be over-turned placed a stay order on it until next Thursday. Punjab took their case to court when the Indian board over-ruled the result of a working committee of a working committee of Punjab because their players illegally switched umpire.

Television unveils cup commentators

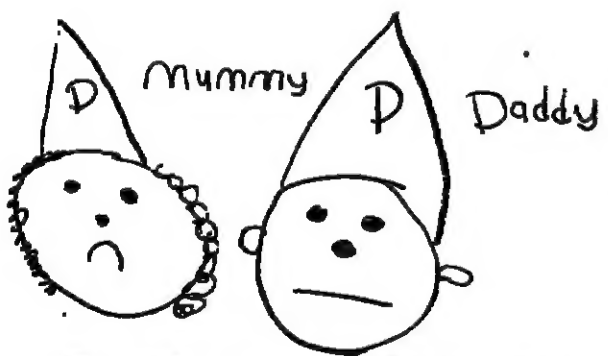
INDEPENDENT television, which wrestled from the BBC the contract to screen the World Cup this autumn, unveiled yesterday leading members of the team which they hope will bring a "breath of fresh air" into the coverage of rugby union in Britain (David Hands writes).

Though the anchorman of their World Cup operation - 24 of 32 matches live and more than 70 hours of networked television - has yet to be named, they have drawn heavily on the experience of Harlech Television in Wales and the West, and on retired international players.

The main match commentators are John Taylor, the former Wales flanker, Alastair Hignell, once England's full back, and Bob Symonds, the experienced ITV presenter. The summarisers will include Gerald Davies (Wales), Nigel Carr (Ireland), Gordon Brown (Scotland), David Kirk (New Zealand) and the only member of the team still active, Gareth Chilcott, the Bath and England prop.

ITV will show the summer tour international involving the home countries as well as the Bledisloe Cup matches between New Zealand and Australia; New Zealand's domestic internationals with Romania and the Soviet Union, and their tour international against Argentina.

Shelford awaits, page 36



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Fewer people are standing up for sitting down

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE need for all-seater stadiums throughout the Football League, a key recommendation of the Taylor Report, is increasingly being challenged by clubs, supporters and even people outside the game. Two years after the Hillsborough disaster, memories of the deaths of 95 spectators have become blurred and the cost of converting 92 grounds worrying to football.

The government is adamant. It supports Lord Justice Taylor's opinion that, although there is no panacea which will achieve total safety and cure all problems of behaviour and crowd control, seating does "more to achieve those objectives than any other single measure."

In his final report, Taylor also stressed that the present trend at home and abroad and the rules of world and European football authorities "make the move to all-seating irresistible". Under Uefa rules, European competitions must be played in all-seater stadiums from 1993-4.

Two months ago, the Par-



liamentary Home Affairs Committee stated in a report on hooliganism that installing seating in lower division grounds would be costly. It said that seats "may bring very little reward. The public safety concerns associated with the packed terraces at major grounds do not exist to the same extent at many third and fourth division clubs, playing in front of sparsely populated terraces."

The MPs from the main parties said that, if spectators themselves did not wish, for the sake of comfort, to sit down at matches, they saw little point in making seats compulsory and thought the clubs, which could ill afford the cost, could spend the money more usefully on other ground improvements.

When the government formally replies to the committee later this month, it will reiterate its commitment to having first and second division grounds all-seater by 1994-5 and the lower divisions by 2000.

According to a survey conducted by the Football League, which was published last week, this will cost £430 million.

Even with the Football Trust dispersing £70 million over the next ten years from the spot-the-ball competition and a further £100 million until 1995 from the cut in tax on the football pools, secured when John Major was Chancellor of the Exchequer, the League recognises that there will still be a large shortfall in the money needed to convert grounds.

The League considers that implementing the Taylor Report "remains professional football's biggest headache at the present time". At its extraordinary general meeting on April 18, the management committee, supported by clubs, is proposing a levy on transfer fees and television income to help meet this cost.

However, even this subsidy is unlikely to stop some clubs in the lower divisions from bankruptcy because the finance for conversion will not be available. Frank Clark, the managing director of the third division Leyton Orient, said that it

would cost £10 million to convert Brisbane Road, although he added that Orient had the option of closing the existing terraces and using the 7,200 seats, ample for the average crowd of 4,200.

Orient is fortunate and this allows Clark to be less subjective than many of his colleagues at other smaller clubs, which do not have enough seats to cater for their regular crowds. "I do not think all-seater grounds are necessary for all clubs. However, the game has not come out too strongly against them because it has wanted to be positive and accept the Taylor Report."

Clark welcomed the report's concern for clubs to improve facilities and believed it is a "marvellous opportunity" for them to have genuine community-based stadiums. However, with more than 90 per cent of clubs trading at a loss, it is "pie-in-the-sky" to expect all clubs to be able to convert to all-seater stadiums without a lot more money becoming available.

At Rochdale, fourth division, where the average atten-

dance is 2,500, there are one seats in a ground capacity of Fred Hyde, the secretary, would cost "several million pounds" to have covered throughout the ground. He

"On the basis of fluctuating attendance - we are expecting 7,000 for the ticket game with Burnley on it - having all-seater stadiums not stack up. Besides, a supporters prefer to stand." It past many clubs, such as Coventry from 1981 to 1984, have been forced to have seats, they have on them and even used the missiles.

After Hillsborough, the Sirman Chester Centre for Football Research at Leicester University surveyed members of the Football Supporters' Association (FSA) concluded that, although all grounds did not attract widespread support, there was less resistance the idea when the prices of seats were controlled, the seats under cover and the supporters consulted.